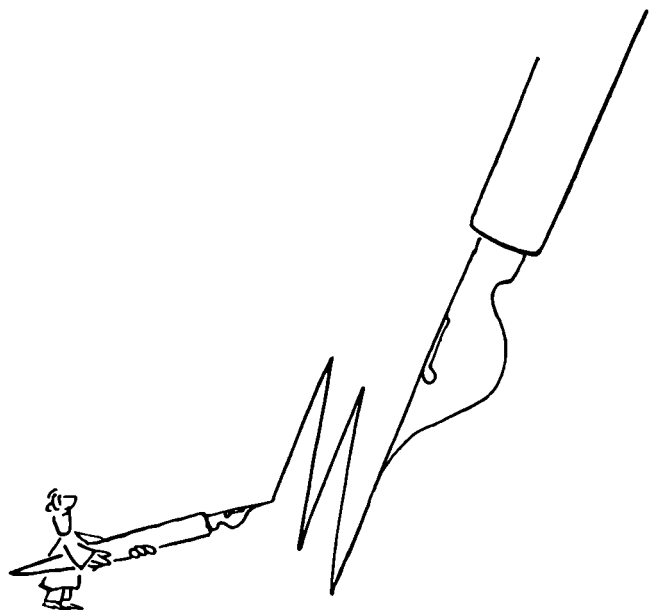


IVAN STEIGER

sees  
the

**BIBLE**

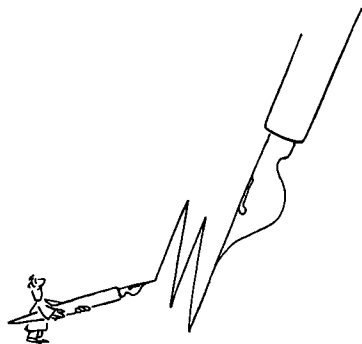


Here in over 350 drawings concerning texts in the Old and New Testaments Ivan Steiger comments on Scripture for the people of our time. Through the medium of illustration, Steiger provides another means to study the Bible as a guide to living and as an avenue to reach God. The drawings supplement the texts and encourage the reflection and study of Scripture.

Ivan Steiger of Munich, Germany, is an illustrator for movie and TV productions, for books for children and adults, and for journals. His work has been published in such papers as *The Christian Science Monitor*, the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, *The Times* of London, *Le Figaro*, and the *Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt* and the *Frankfurter Allgemeinen Zeitung*.

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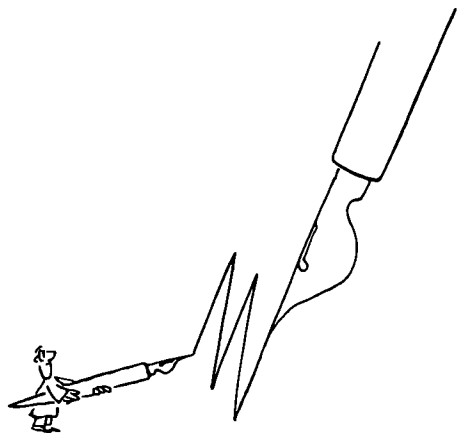






IVAN STEIGER

sees  
the **BIBLE**



*A Liturgical Press Book*



THE LITURGICAL PRESS  
Collegeville, Minnesota

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Foreword translated by Robert C. Schultz.

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## FOREWORD

Choose a favorite biblical story such as the story of the people dancing around the golden calf (Exod 32:1-4). This story tells us how—almost as soon as Moses climbed the mountain to receive the commandments—the people make themselves their own god, a god who is visible and much closer. This god is a fertility symbol, an idol of the kind that many other nations have. The people are dancing around this idol in wild ecstasy.

Pictures of this scene have been produced in all periods of Christian art. They adequately depict the scene described in this story: the plain, the wilderness at the foot of the mountain of God, together with the camp and tents, the crowds dancing around the golden image which has been placed on a high pedestal; in the distance we may even see the prophet Moses who displays wrath and horror when he discovers what his people have become.

How does Ivan Steiger depict this scene? He shows us a little person who has a television set for a head and who is kneeling in front of a giant television tower. The artist thinks that this picture will help contemporary people like us see the message that this biblical story wants to bring to our attention: people are giving control of their own thinking to an authority which then assumes control of people. We are in the process of becoming sacrifices without souls to an idol which we have created for ourselves.

Some years ago Ivan Steiger was commissioned to create an illustration of a biblical text each month. Since then, his attention has been focused on the Bible. He has created over seven hundred illustrations—some of which are contained in this book. All of these pictures show the tension, even the contradiction, between what God intends for us and enables us to become on the one hand and what people make out of their own lives: that is, the discrepancy between God's grace and our response. The artist suggested a title for the German edition of this book: *Auf Gottes Wegen und unseren Abwegen*. It is difficult to reproduce the striking parallelism of this title in English, but the sense is: "God's Highways and Our Detours."

### *Metamorphoses of the Pen*

Steiger employs a very specific symbolic language to express what he sees. He works with symbols, semiotic condensations, or pictographs—whatever you wish to call them.

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## FOREWORD

It will be more meaningful to use the one example of the pen to describe how Steiger uses many forms of a single symbol. The pen has become Steiger's symbol for his own creativity. In his own work Steiger uses neither a felt pen nor a pointed brush but rather works with an old fashioned steel pen. This tool is so important to his work that he even used the manufacturer's number as the title of one of his books: 09360EF. Steiger uses this pen to symbolize the Creator, for we creatures are forbidden to create an image of this One. Steiger notes no less a precedent than that of Michelangelo: his famous portrayal of the creation of Adam in the Sistine Chapel as the pattern for the creative encounter between God and human beings is condensed by Steiger into the symbol of a pen drawing itself.

As Steiger moves through the Bible, this symbol undergoes many changes: in the Garden of Eden, this pen is a tree; in the story of the flood, it becomes the ark; when the Israelites need to cross the Red Sea on the way from Egypt to the Promised Land, the pen carries them across as though it were a boat. The pen can function as a spear, a crown, a plough, a missile shot from a catapult, an arrow which hits the target like divine judgment, as well as prescribing a gracious way for Ruth and Naomi or serving as a lever which raises the world off its hinges.

The meaning of the pen is firmly established in the creation stories where it is used to depict the conversion of ideas into pictures. If you reflect on these illustrations, you will also understand how this symbol is transformed in these pages.

Other graphic symbols undergo similar changes. The fingerprint represents the reality that we leave our enduring personal mark on everything and everyone we come in contact with: pressure, soil, sin, stress. Steiger playfully explores variations of this symbol of the fingerprint as he does with other images. For example, in the illustration of Romans 6:16-18, a passage which speaks of forgiveness and being set free of guilt, a person is depicted as tied by a string to the burden of this black fingerprint which has now become as light as a balloon and is seen floating away.

Then there is television. It is a symbol for our alienation, for our distraction from the reality of our situation, for our willingness to discuss the fact that we are trapped without drawing any serious conclusions, and for our effort to cure our loneliness by being tickled to death with entertainment. The people who appear in these illustrations are not aware of themselves, rather they are glued to the picture tube, managed and enslaved by external forces, and crammed full of illusory values presented by false prophets. The television transmission towers that are scattered across our landscape are our age's idols of wood and stone. At the end of the twentieth



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## FOREWORD

century, our bondage expresses itself in the fact that the device we have created has become our false god.

Tanks are symbols of all kinds of human force; paragraphs of text fall like rain; flashlights are used to illuminate dark caves; the monotonous facades of skyscrapers alert us to the inhumane rules that govern our world.

However, we should not forget to mention the great symbols of hope in this brief list. The theme of hope runs throughout the biblical stories. Among them is the green branch sprouting from a tree stump. When this illustration first appeared, it was also intended as a political confession offering a little hope for a new beginning—even though it was still too soon for that to happen in Steiger's native Czechoslovakia. In illustrating the Bible, Ivan Steiger quotes not only Michelangelo but also occasionally himself.

The symbol of the heart appears frequently. It stands for everything that is properly human, for good and evil, for community and loneliness, for security and vulnerability; in a word: for life itself.

### *Personal Convictions of the Artist*

How did it happen that a political cartoonist who year after year delivered a daily drawing to a large newspaper happen to concern himself so intensively with the Bible?

Steiger lives with his family and works in Munich-Schwabing. He keeps a Czech Bible on his desk. Its presence reflects his home and his roots. It also defines the brokenness that determined the story of his own life. Ivan Steiger was born in Prague early in 1939 and "baptized with water from the Moldau in the Chapel of St. Apollinaris." He grew up in a good Catholic family which lost its middle class status after the Revolution and reestablished itself in a state governed by the workers and peasants.

The school that most influenced Steiger was the Academy of Film in Prague. There he learned the craft of directing from the bottom up. He wrote scripts and stories. When the troops of the Warsaw Pact marched into Czechoslovakia in the summer of 1968 and brought the "Prague Spring" to an end, he moved to the Federal Republic of Germany without knowing how long he wanted to remain. He later decided not to return. He paid a high price for this decision: he lost his native language.

Did that loss condemn him to being unable to express himself? Not at all. He made a discovery that was as valuable as his loss had been: What he could no longer express through words, he could express through drawings. "I found the meaning of my life precisely at the moment in which I lost my ability to express myself in

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## FOREWORD

words." Although he "had never learned to draw," he attempted to reproduce what he saw in a naturalistic style. More accurately, he drew what he thought. Often that seemed to be an awkward scribbling which was somehow charming and intellectually stimulating because of the hidden wit and the unexpected viewpoint which it expressed. The unique perspective of his observations and the cunning way in which he indirectly expresses himself exerted a magnetic attraction on many as soon as they saw these apparently simple-minded drawings.

Ivan Steiger's handwriting soon became his trademark. His pictures were also immediately "legible" to people who did not speak German. As a result, they were reprinted in *The Times* (London) and *Le Figaro* (Paris) as well as in American newspapers. Exhibits in many countries evoked appreciative responses.

Ivan Steiger has furnished various spaces for his personal use. Each of these rooms tells us something about him personally. His residence in Munich and his farm house near Wasserburg am Inn are both filled with old toys, dolls, model railroads, and other mechanical toys. Steiger has yielded to his passion for such collecting. His collection has overflowed into and fills toy museums in Munich and Prague with enough left to fill another museum.

The upper floor of the house in Munich is a large studio equipped with special effects cameras and film-editing equipment. Films and books, as well as short stories and children's books, have been created here. However, during the past seven years, no book containing drawings has been produced. This indicates the high priority which Ivan Steiger gave to his work of illustrating the Bible.

### *Why Use Illustrations?*

"Many people are deaf and blind as far as the Bible is concerned. They think they know what it is all about. However if they are shown the stories of the Bible from a new perspective, if the Good News is extended just a little further into life, so that they see these stories from another angle, people may quite possibly come to the most important insight of their lives."

### *Then the Real Intention Is to Evangelize?*

"Of course: From the earliest time to the present, the Bible is more than a mere instruction about how to live. However, most of us have still not learned to read and understand it. In various ways, we still attempt to find God on our own. The Bible says the opposite: 'God comes to us.' Who of us really understands that?

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## FOREWORD

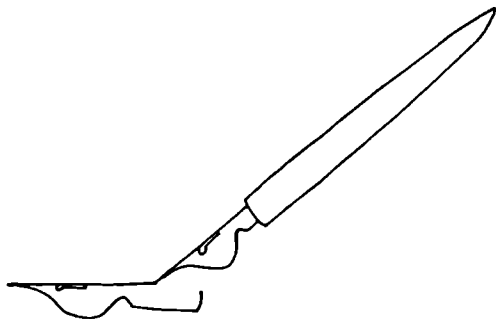
"I intend my drawings to awaken interest in the Bible. I prepare them especially for young people whose helplessness over against questions of faith is becoming increasingly clear. However, I do not intend to take a critical attitude toward the Bible. My criticism is directed toward our society which is built more on so-called 'human reason' than on faith in God.

"As far as I am concerned, my work on this book is the most important work I have yet done in my life."

This is something completely different than a modest program: It starts with Steiger's critique of human society—including our "common sense"—and passes through the thicket of misunderstanding and helplessness which stands in the way of faith in God. Our response to this must be more than a noncommittal smile: The artist is inviting us to follow him along a difficult path.

Undertaking this adventure of looking at things in an unusual way can become a really great adventure that leads to extraordinary insight.

Ulrich Fick  
General Secretary  
United Bible Societies, 1973–1988





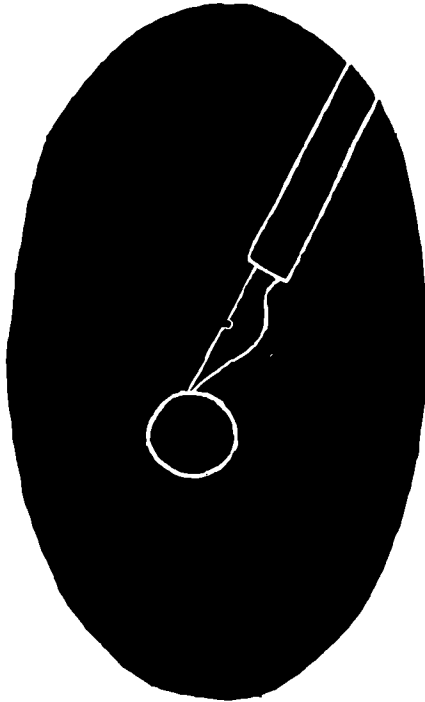
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## **OLD TESTAMENT**

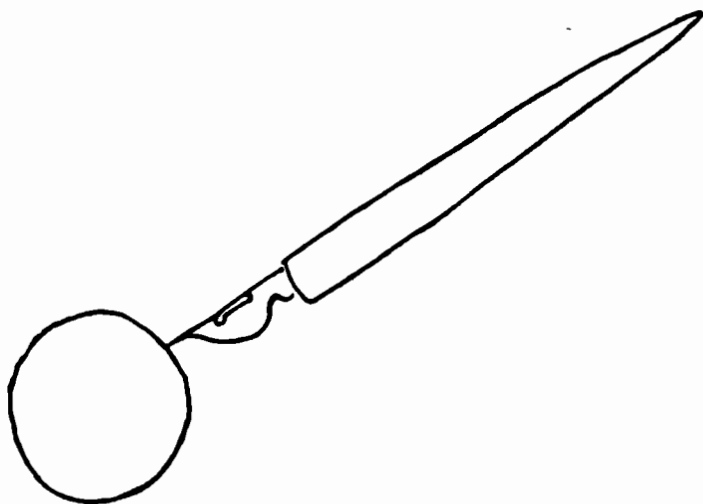


**Creation**

**1** In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.



<sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

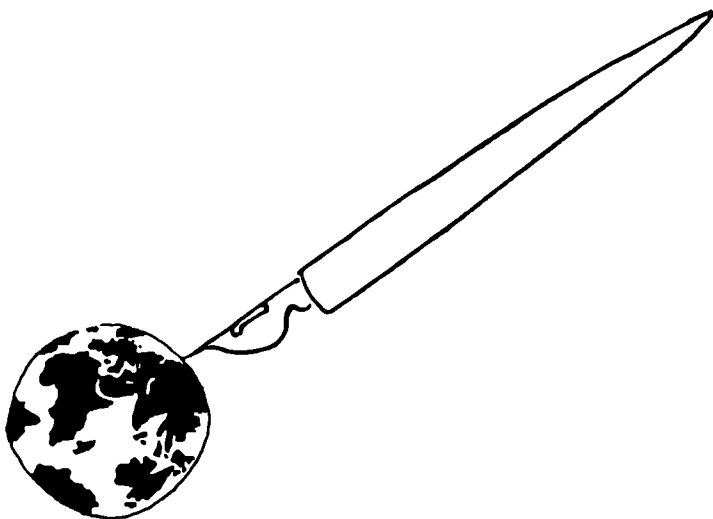




<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.

<sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

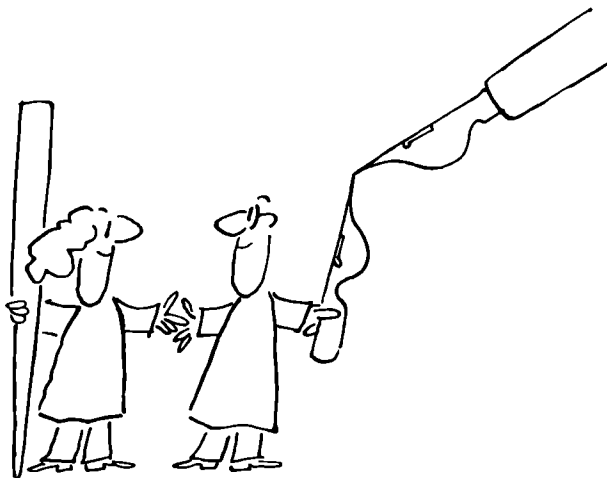


**A true  
reflection  
of God**

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

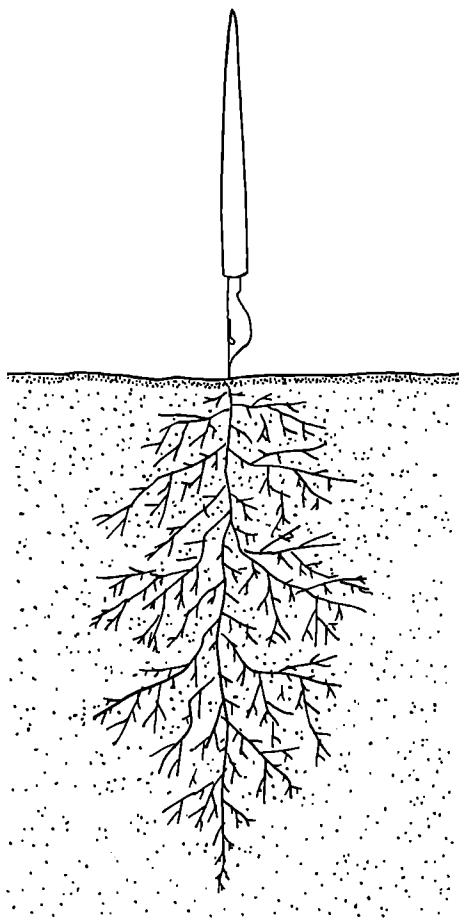
<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them,  
"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth  
and subdue it; and have dominion over the  
fish of the sea and over the birds of the air  
and over every living thing that moves upon  
the earth."

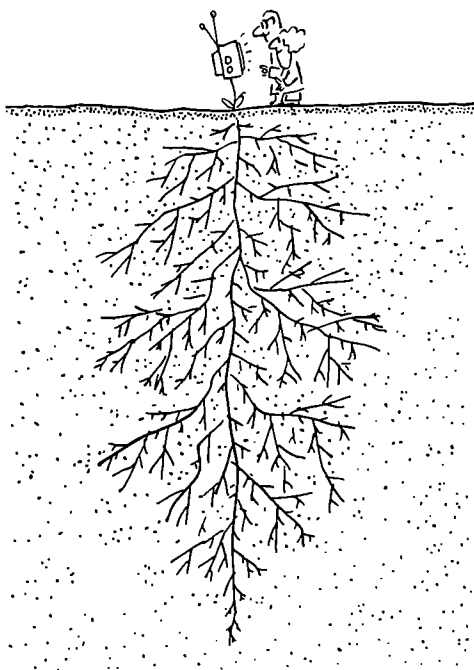


***Tree of  
knowledge***

<sup>8</sup>And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

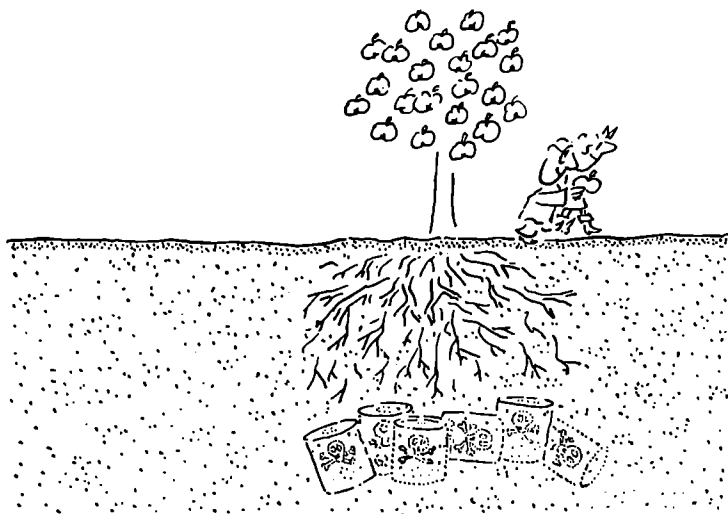


<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.  
<sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."



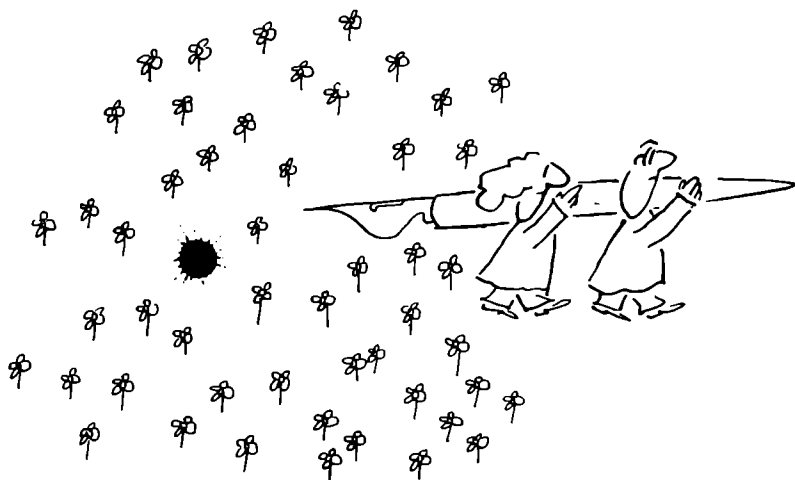
***The poisonous seed***

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.



***Banishment  
from Paradise***

<sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—<sup>23</sup>therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken.

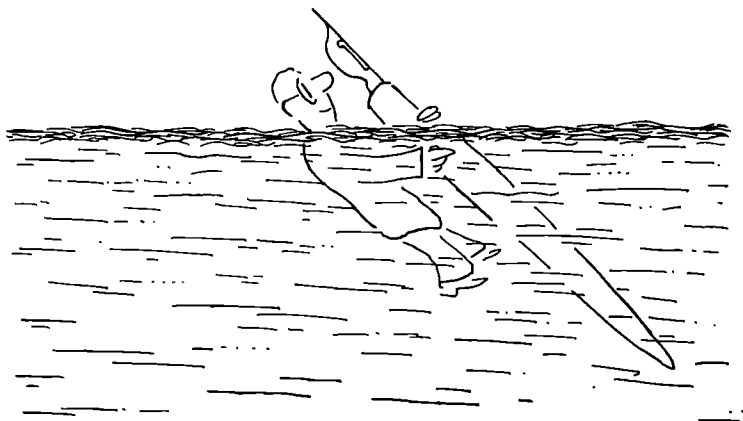


**The great  
flood**

<sup>5</sup>The LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. <sup>7</sup>So the LORD said, "I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created—people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

**7** Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. . . ."

<sup>17</sup>The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. <sup>18</sup>The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

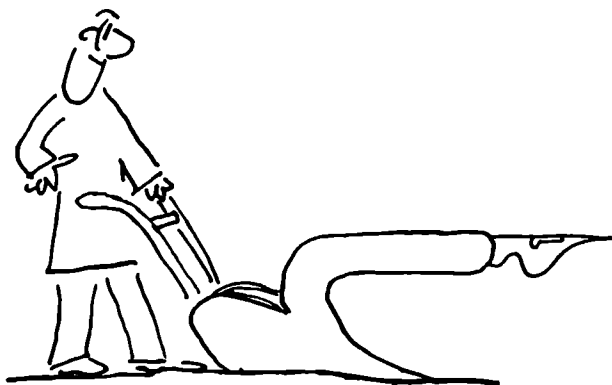


**A new  
beginning**

<sup>15</sup>Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup>"Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. <sup>17</sup>Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." <sup>18</sup>So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. <sup>19</sup>And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.

<sup>20</sup>Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. <sup>21</sup>And when the LORD smelled the pleasing odor, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.

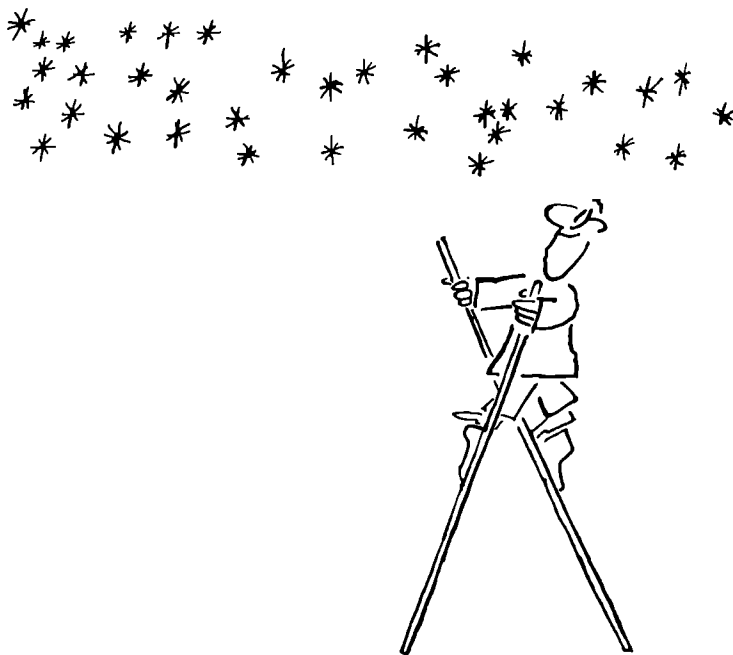
<sup>22</sup>As long as the earth endures,  
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,  
summer and winter, day and night,  
shall not cease."





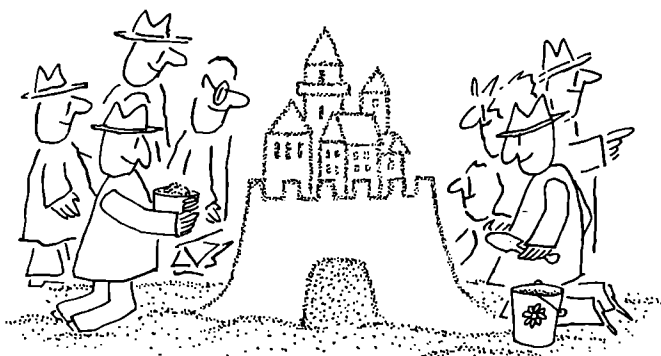
*Closer to  
heaven*

**11** Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. <sup>2</sup>And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup>And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. <sup>4</sup>Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."



***The tower of  
Babylon***

<sup>5</sup>The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD said, "Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them."



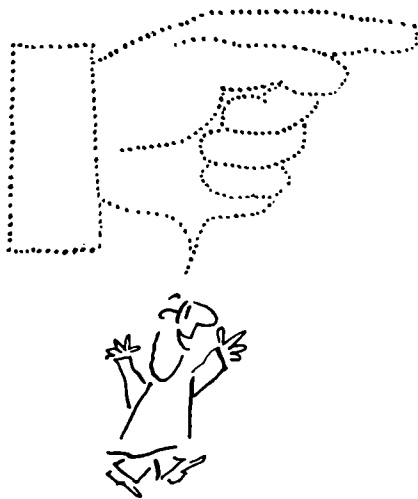
### Incoherent communication

77"Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech." 78So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 79Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.



***The command  
of God***

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings . . . . <sup>10</sup>So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup>He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."



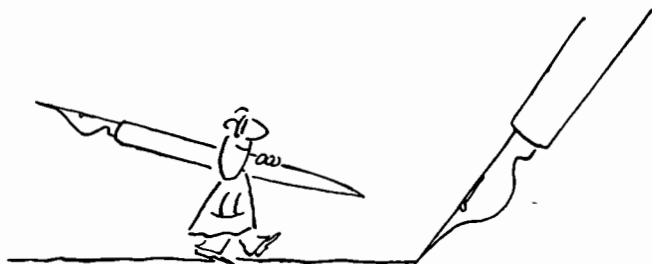
**Ship of  
salvation**

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.  
<sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.



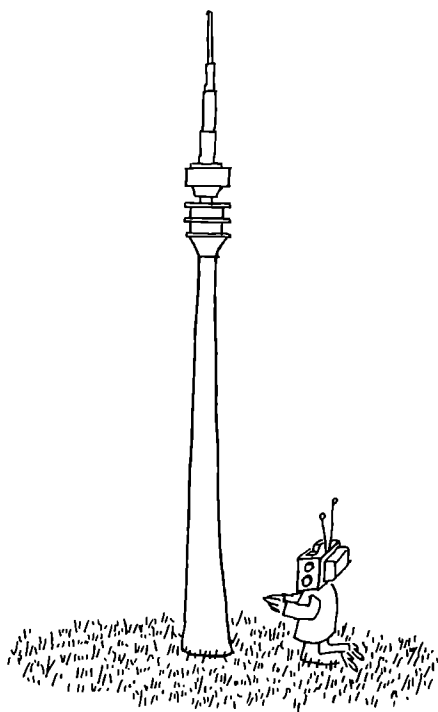
**The Law**

<sup>12</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."



**A reachable  
god**

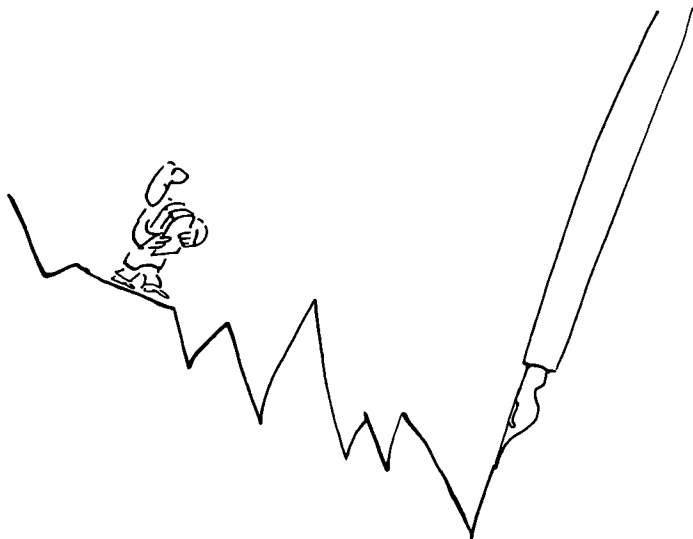
**32** When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." <sup>2</sup>Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." <sup>3</sup>So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup>He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"



**The Ten  
Commandments—  
new hope**

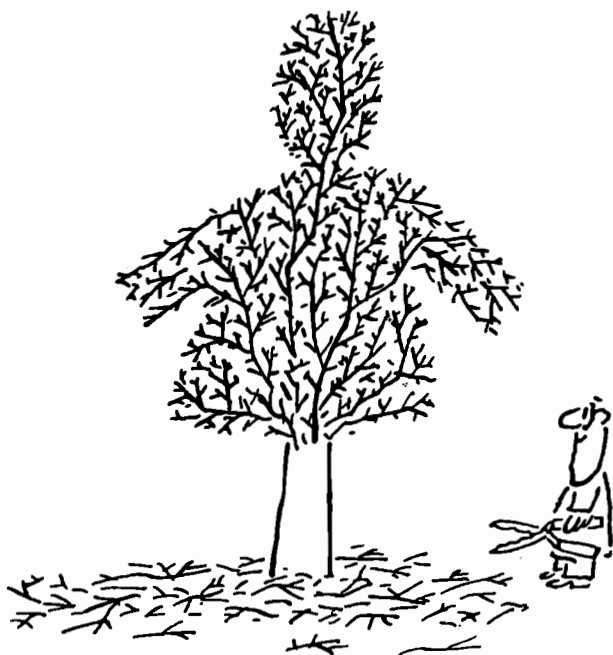
<sup>27</sup>The LORD said to Moses: Write these words; in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel. <sup>28</sup>He was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

<sup>29</sup>Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup>When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.





<sup>4</sup>Do not turn to idols or make cast images for yourselves: I am the LORD your God.



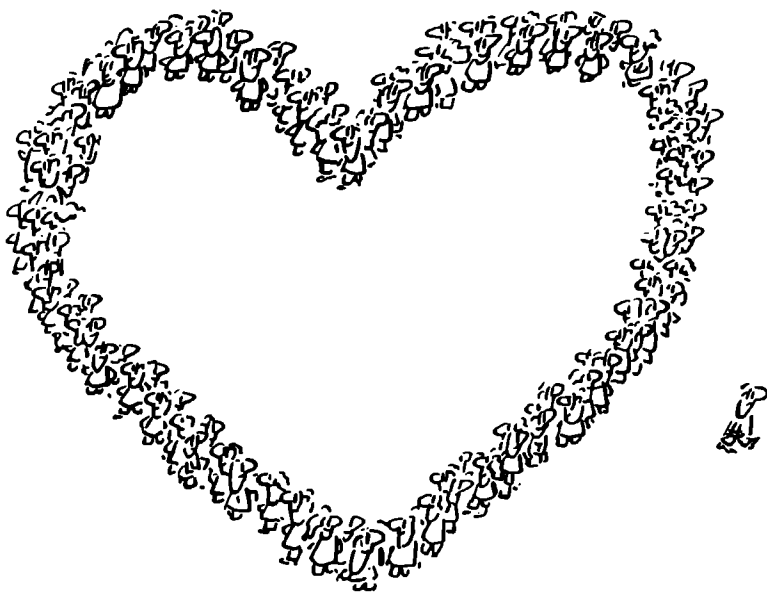
***The sole law***

<sup>15</sup>You shall not render an unjust judgment;  
you shall not be partial to the poor or defer  
to the great: with justice you shall judge  
your neighbor.



. . . *love*

<sup>18</sup>You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.



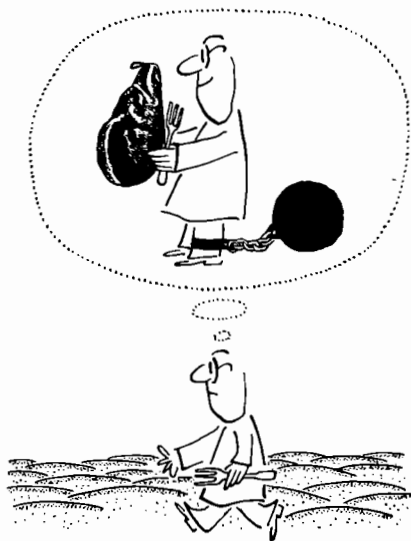
**The visible  
voice**

**10** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:  
<sup>2</sup>Make two silver trumpets; you shall make them of hammered work; and you shall use them for summoning the congregation, and for breaking camp. <sup>3</sup>When both are blown, the whole congregation shall assemble before you at the entrance of the tent of meeting. <sup>4</sup>But if only one is blown, then the leaders, the heads of the tribes of Israel, shall assemble before you. <sup>5</sup>When you blow an alarm, the camps on the east side shall set out; <sup>6</sup>when you blow a second alarm, the camps on the south side shall set out. An alarm is to be blown whenever they are to set out. <sup>7</sup>But when the assembly is to be gathered, you shall blow, but you shall not sound an alarm. <sup>8</sup>The sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; this shall be a perpetual institution for you throughout your generations. <sup>9</sup>When you go to war in your land against the adversary who oppresses you, you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, so that you may be remembered before the LORD your God and be saved from your enemies. <sup>10</sup>Also on your days of rejoicing, at your appointed festivals, and at the beginnings of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over your sacrifices of well-being; they shall serve as a reminder on your behalf before the LORD your God: I am the LORD your God.



***Desire for  
slavery***

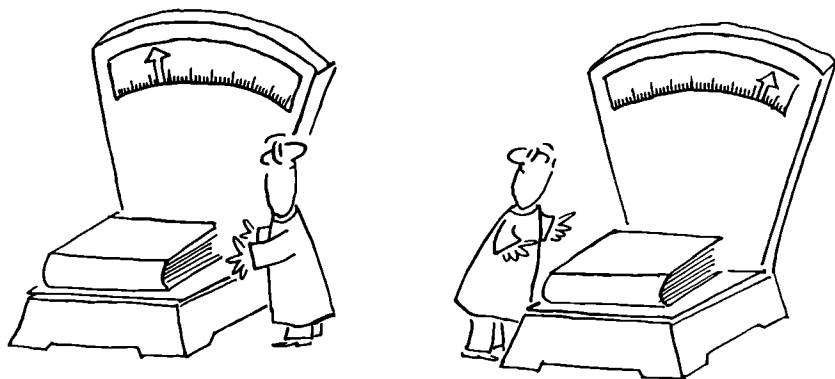
<sup>4</sup>The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."



***Dangerous  
tolerances***









**4** So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. . . .

<sup>5</sup>See, just as the LORD my God has charged me, I now teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. <sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him?



**Interruption of  
human work**

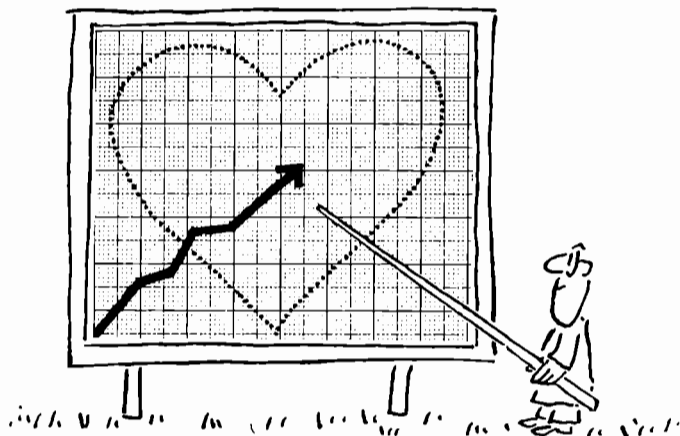
<sup>12</sup>Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. <sup>13</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>14</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. <sup>15</sup>Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

<p>MONDAY</p> 	<p>TUESDAY</p> 	<p>WEDNESDAY</p> 	<p>THURSDAY</p> 
<p>FRIDAY</p> 	<p>SATURDAY</p> 	<p>SUNDAY</p> 	<p>MONDAY</p> 



***The first  
commandment***

<sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all  
your heart, and with all your soul, and with  
all your might.



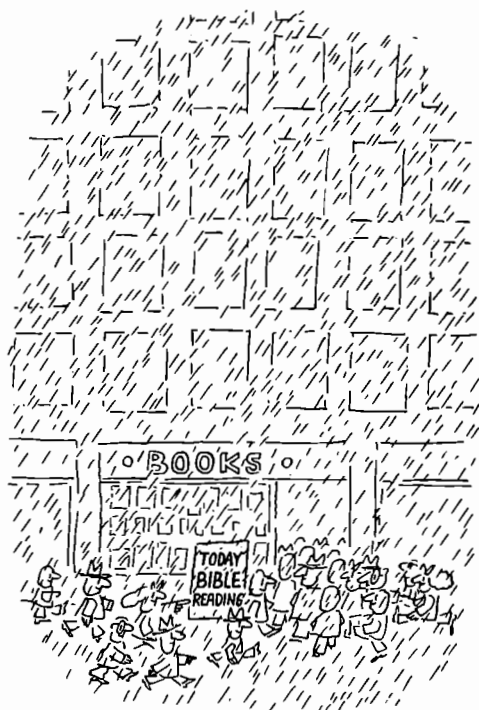
**Refuge**

**32** Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak;  
let the earth hear the words of my  
mouth.

<sup>2</sup>May my teaching drop like the rain,  
my speech condense like the dew;  
like gentle rain on grass,  
like showers on new growth.

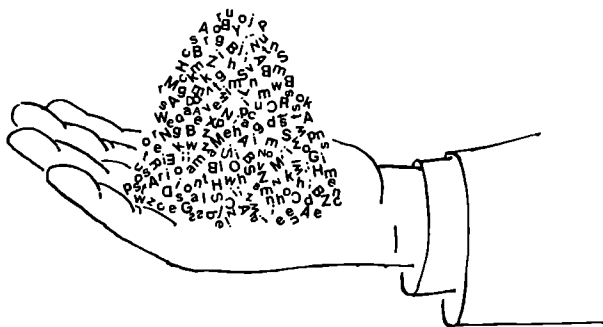
<sup>3</sup>For I will proclaim the name of the LORD;  
ascribe greatness to our God!

<sup>4</sup>The Rock, his work is perfect,  
and all his ways are just.  
A faithful God, without deceit,  
just and upright is he . . . .



***In God's  
hand***

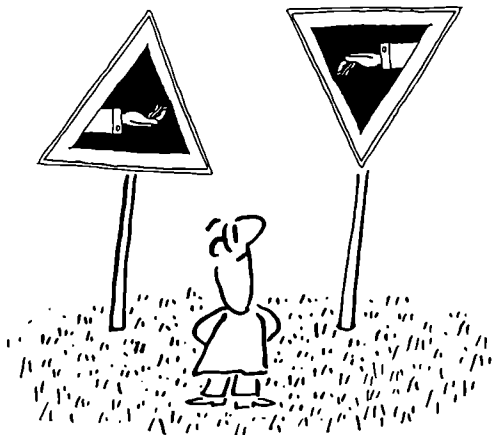
<sup>43</sup>Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to their ancestors that he would give them; and having taken possession of it, they settled there. <sup>44</sup>And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their ancestors; not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands. <sup>45</sup>Not one of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.



**Challenge  
to decision**

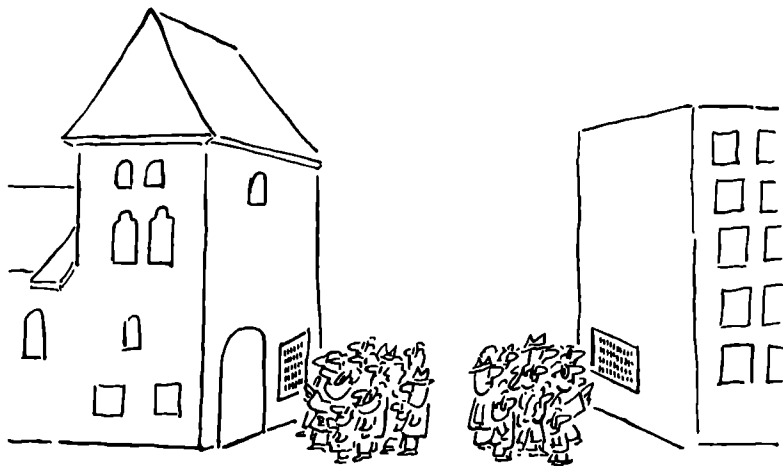
<sup>14</sup>"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."



***Service that is  
not easy***

<sup>19</sup>But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. <sup>20</sup>If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." <sup>21</sup>And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" <sup>22</sup>Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses."



**Doubt . . .**

<sup>14</sup>Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian; I hereby commission you." <sup>15</sup>He responded, "But sir, how can I deliver Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." <sup>16</sup>The LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike down the Midianites, every one of them." <sup>17</sup>Then he said to him, "If now I have found favor with you, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me."



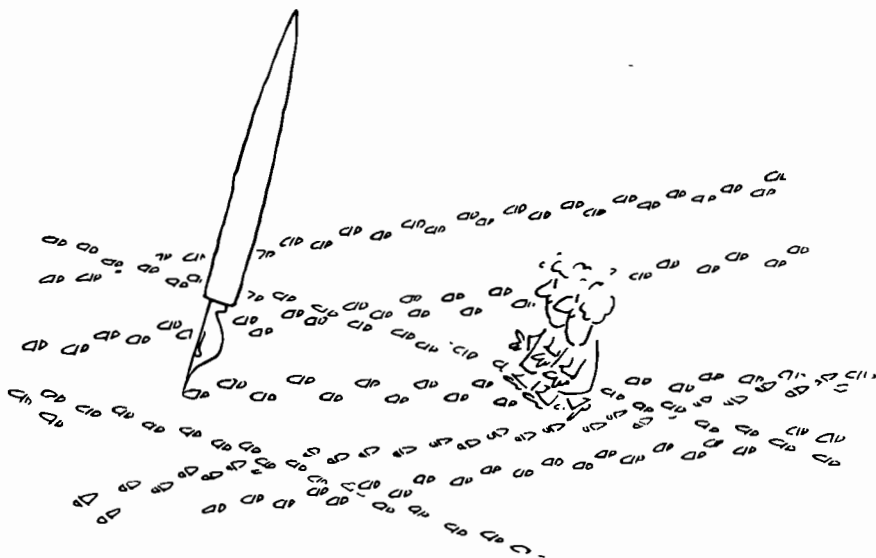
**. . . and  
certainty**

<sup>21</sup>Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes; and fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes; and the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. <sup>22</sup>Then Gideon perceived that it was the angel of the LORD; and Gideon said, "Help me, LORD God! For I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face." <sup>23</sup>But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you; do not fear, you shall not die."



**Clear  
confession**

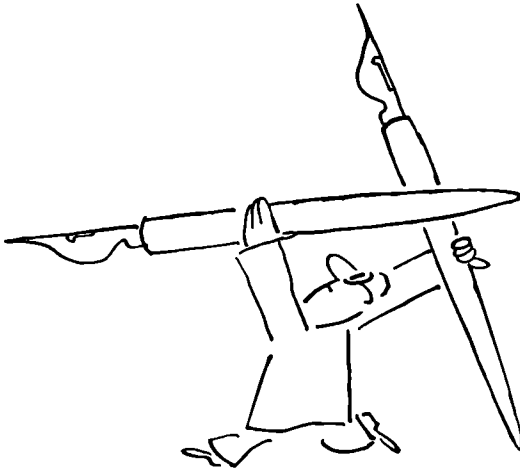
<sup>16</sup>But Ruth said,  
 "Do not press me to leave you  
 or to turn back from following you!  
 Where you go, I will go;  
 Where you lodge, I will lodge;  
 your people shall be my people,  
 and your God my God.  
<sup>17</sup>Where you die, I will die—  
 there will I be buried.  
 May the Lord do thus and so to me,  
 and more as well,  
 if even death parts me from you!"





***Being warned***

<sup>25</sup>“If one person sins against another, someone can intercede for the sinner with the LORD; but if someone sins against the LORD, who can make intercession?” But they would not listen to the voice of their father; for it was the will of the LORD to kill them.

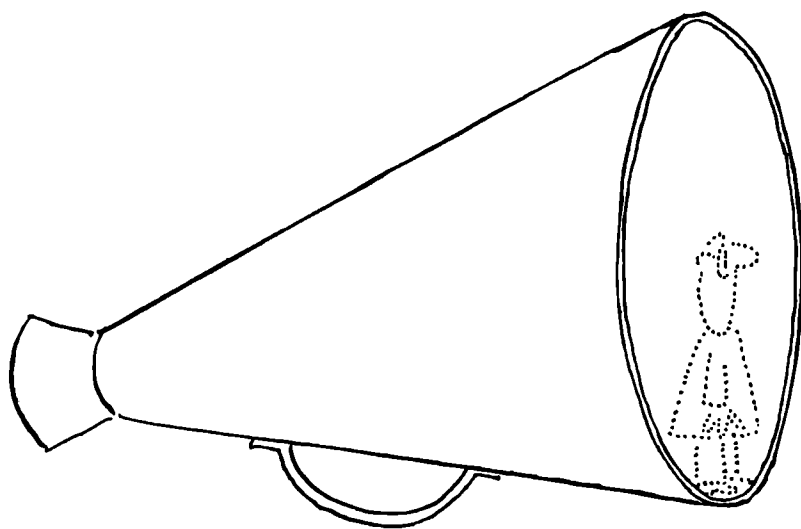


***The call of  
Samuel***

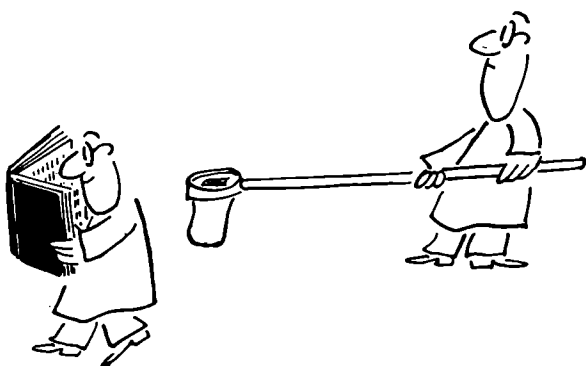
**3** Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." <sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle."

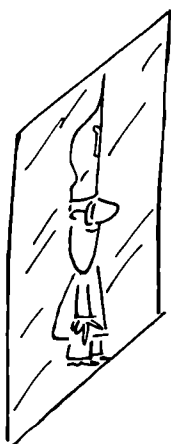


<sup>22</sup>And Samuel said,  
"Has the LORD as great delight in  
burnt offerings and sacrifices,  
as in obeying the voice of the LORD?  
Surely, to obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to heed than the fat of rams.  
<sup>23</sup>For rebellion is no less a sin than divination,  
and stubbornness is like iniquity and  
idolatry.  
Because you have rejected the word of  
the LORD,  
he has also rejected you from being king."



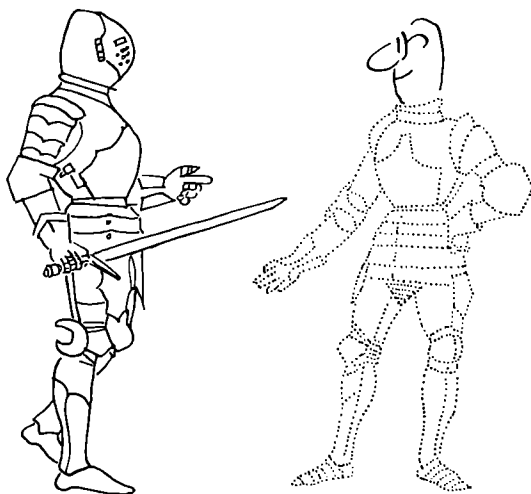
***God knows the heart***

<sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."



***The weakness  
of the mighty  
and the  
strength of  
faith***

<sup>45</sup>But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup>This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, <sup>47</sup>and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's and he will give you into our hand."



**Absolute  
misunderstanding**

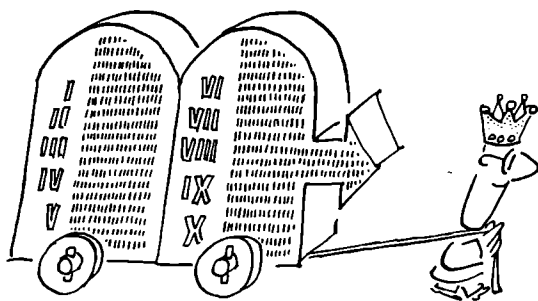
<sup>16</sup>As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

<sup>20</sup>David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' maids, as any vulgar fellow might shamelessly uncover himself!" <sup>21</sup>David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me in place of your father and all his household, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the LORD, that I have danced before the LORD. <sup>22</sup>I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in my own eyes; but by the maids of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor." <sup>23</sup>And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.



**David's  
legacy**

<sup>3</sup>The God of Israel has spoken,  
the Rock of Israel has said to me:  
One who rules over people justly,  
ruling in the fear of God,  
<sup>4</sup>is like the light of morning,  
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,  
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

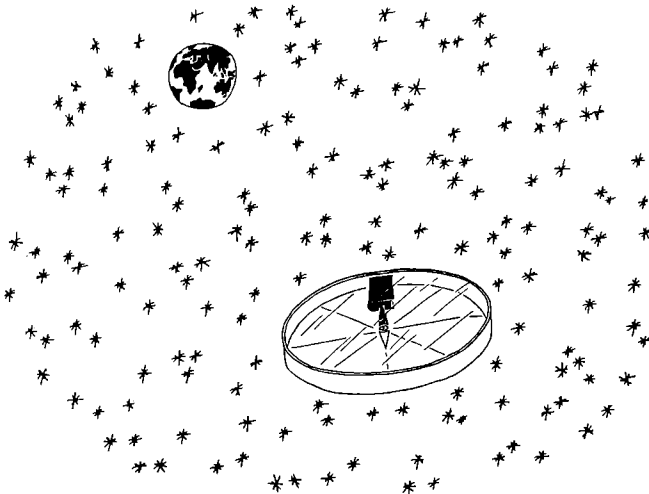




**Paradigm**

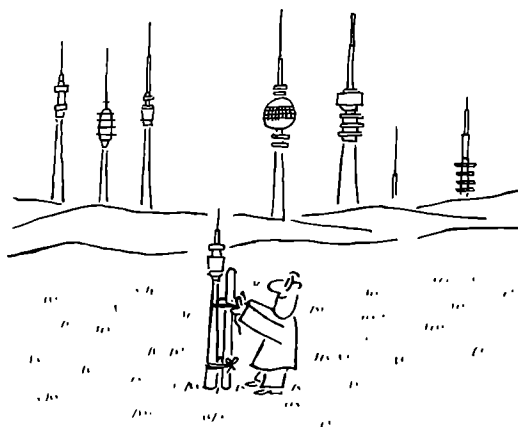
<sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."



**Pagan  
seduction**

9“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” 10So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” 11As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” 12But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”



**The music in  
the sanctuary**

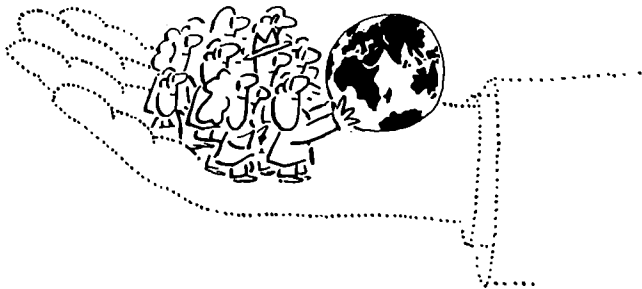
**25** David and the officers of the army also set apart for the service the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with lyres, harps, and cymbals. The list of those who did the work and of their duties was: <sup>2</sup>Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asarelah, sons of Asaph, under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied under the direction of the king. <sup>3</sup>Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with the lyre in thanksgiving and praise to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Of Heman, the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, and Romamti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, Mahazioth. . . . <sup>6</sup>They were all under the direction of their father for the music in the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the order of the king. <sup>7</sup>They and their kindred, who were trained in singing to the LORD, all of whom were skillful, numbered two hundred eighty-eight.



**Gratitude**

<sup>10</sup>Then David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly; David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of our ancestor Israel, forever and ever. <sup>11</sup>Yours, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. <sup>12</sup>Riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all.<sup>13</sup>And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name.

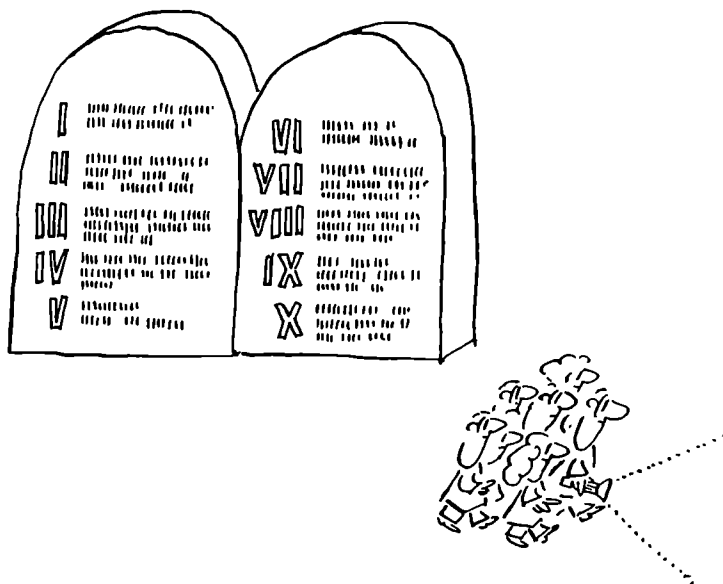
<sup>14</sup>"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. <sup>15</sup>For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. <sup>16</sup>O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own."



**Counter-attack**

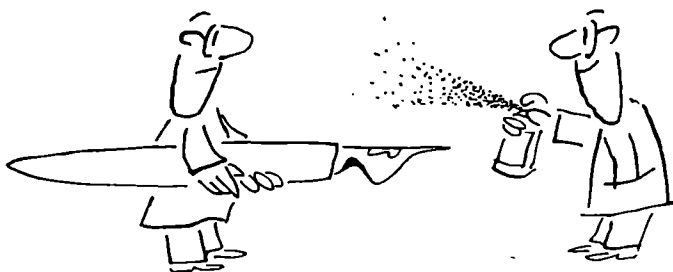
<sup>17</sup>Now after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and did obeisance to the king; then the king listened to them. <sup>18</sup>They abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and served the sacred poles and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. <sup>19</sup>Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD; they testified against them, but they would not listen.

<sup>20</sup>Then the spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada; he stood above the people and said to them, "Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has also forsaken you."

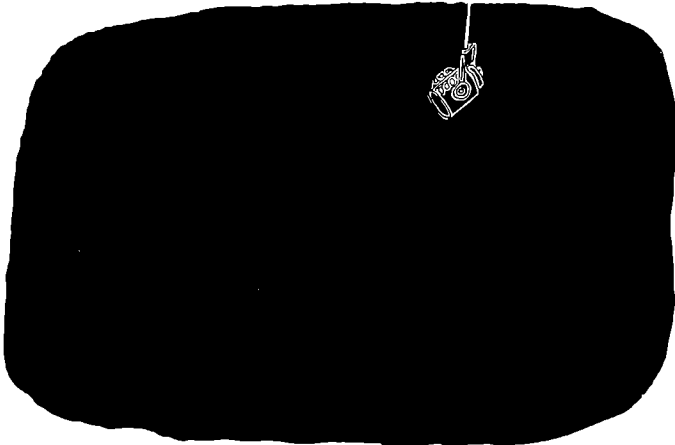
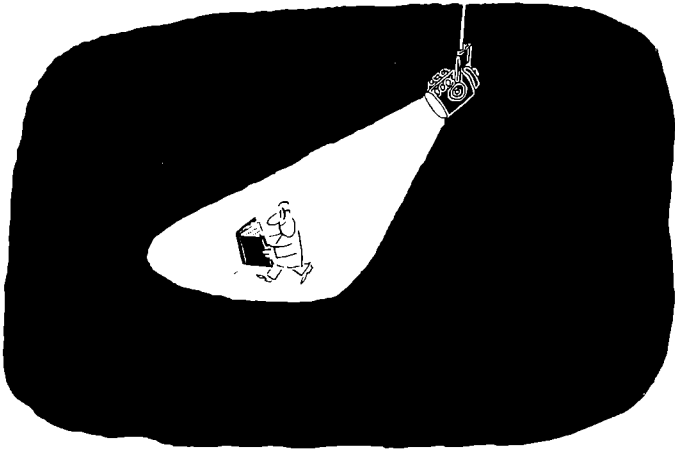


***Ridicule of  
the prophets***

. . . <sup>16</sup>but they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words, and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD against his people became so great that there was no remedy.



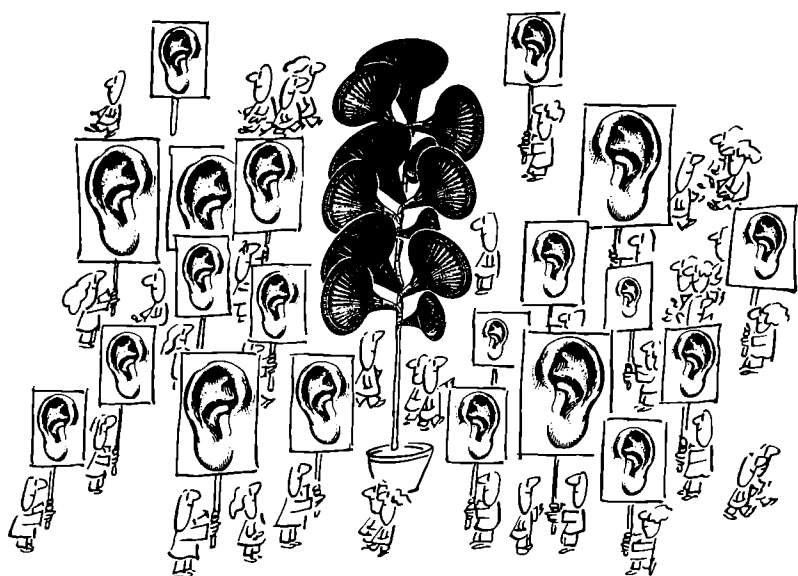
<sup>22</sup>For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and cavalry to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king that the hand of our God is gracious to all who seek him, but his power and his wrath are against all who forsake him.



**Opened ears**

When the seventh month came—the people of Israel being settled in their towns—<sup>1</sup>all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They **8** told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>4</sup>The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. <sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.





**Then as  
today**

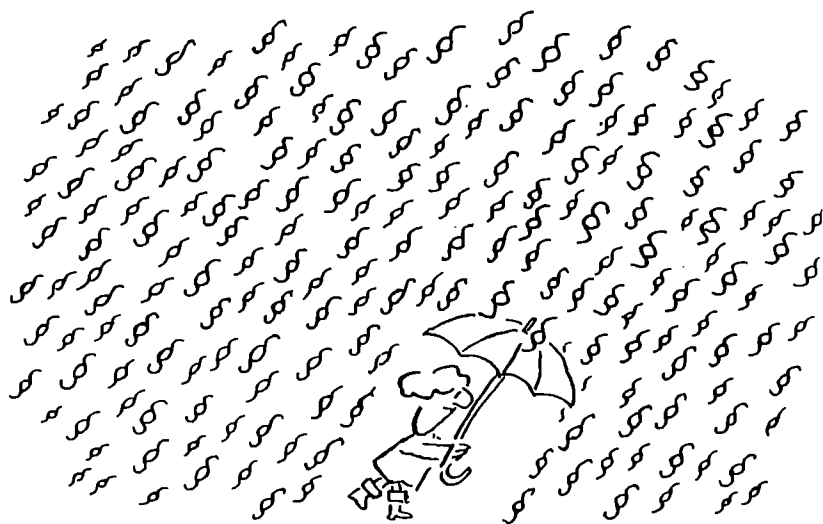
<sup>10</sup>On the seventh day, when the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha and Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who attended him, <sup>11</sup>to bring Queen Vashti before the king, wearing the royal crown, in order to show the peoples and the officials her beauty; for she was fair to behold. <sup>12</sup>But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command conveyed by the eunuchs. At this the king was enraged, and his anger burned within him.

<sup>13</sup>Then the king consulted the sages who knew the laws (for this was the king's procedure toward all who were versed in law and custom, <sup>14</sup>and those next to him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven officials of Persia and Media, who had access to the king, and sat first in the kingdom):

<sup>15</sup>"According to the law, what is to be done to Queen Vashti because she has not performed the command of King Ahasuerus conveyed by the eunuchs?" <sup>16</sup>Then Memucan said in the presence of the king and the officials, "Not only has Queen Vashti done wrong to the king, but also to all the officials and all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. <sup>17</sup>For this deed of the queen will be made known to all women, causing them to look with contempt on their husbands, since they will say, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, and she did not come.' <sup>18</sup>This very day the noble ladies of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's behavior will rebel against the king's officials, and there will be no end of contempt and wrath! <sup>19</sup>If it pleases the king, let a royal order go out from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it may not be altered, that

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Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.  
<sup>20</sup>So when the decree made by the king is proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, vast as it is, all women will give honor to their husbands, high and low alike."



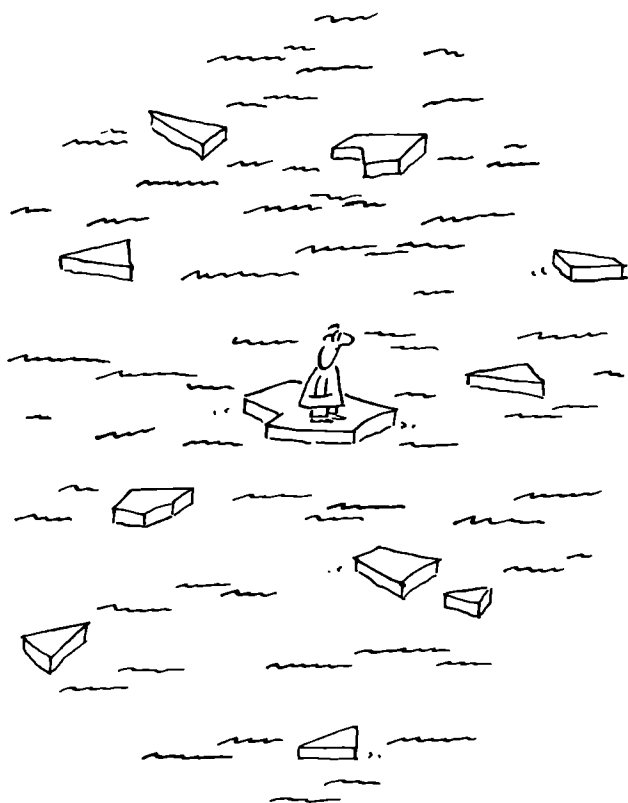
**Exposed  
to trial**

<sup>8</sup>The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil." <sup>9</sup>Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? <sup>10</sup>Have you not put a fence around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. <sup>11</sup>But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." <sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, all that he has is in your power; only do not stretch out your hand against him!" So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

. . . <sup>14a</sup>a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were feeding beside them, <sup>15</sup>and the Sabeans fell on them and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>16</sup>While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>17</sup>While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three columns, made a raid on the camels and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>18</sup>While he was still speaking, another came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house, <sup>19</sup>and suddenly a great wind came across the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you."

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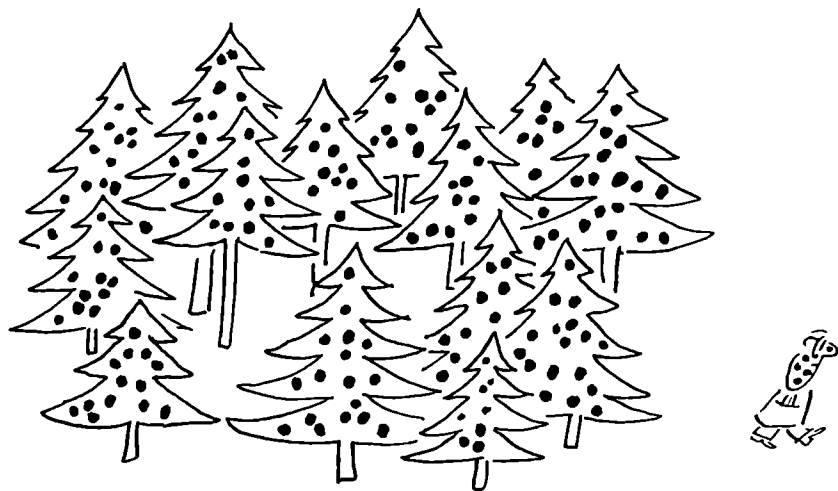
<sup>20</sup>Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped.  
<sup>21</sup>He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."



***The faithfulness  
of Job***

<sup>7</sup>So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. <sup>8</sup>Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

<sup>9</sup>Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." <sup>10</sup>But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.



***The lamentation  
of Job***

- 3** After this Job opened his mouth and  
cursed the day of his birth. <sup>2</sup>Job said:  
<sup>3</sup>"Let the day perish in which I was born,  
and the night that said,  
'A man-child is conceived.'  
<sup>4</sup>Let that day be darkness!  
May God above not seek it,  
or light shine on it.  
<sup>5</sup>Let gloom and deep darkness claim it.  
Let clouds settle upon it;  
let the blackness of the day terrify it.  
<sup>6</sup>That night—let thick darkness seize it!  
let it not rejoice among the days  
of the year;  
let it not come into the number  
of the months.  
<sup>7</sup>Yes, let that night be barren;  
let no joyful cry be heard in it.  
<sup>8</sup>Let those curse it who curse the Sea,  
those who are skilled to rouse up  
Leviathan.  
<sup>9</sup>Let the stars of its dawn be dark;  
let it hope for light, but have none;  
may it not see the eyelids of the  
morning—  
<sup>10</sup>because it did not shut the doors  
of my mother's womb,  
and hide trouble from my eyes."



**Why?**

<sup>11</sup>"Why did I not die at birth,  
come forth from the womb and expire?  
<sup>12</sup>Why were there knees to receive me,  
or breasts for me to suck?  
<sup>13</sup>Now I would be lying down and quiet;  
I would be asleep; then I would be at  
rest. . . .  
<sup>20</sup>Why is light given to one in misery,  
and life to the bitter in soul,  
<sup>21</sup>who long for death, but it does not come  
and dig for it more than for hidden  
treasures;  
<sup>22</sup>who rejoice exceedingly,  
and are glad when they find the grave?  
<sup>23</sup>Why is light given to one who cannot see  
the way,  
whom God has forced in?" -





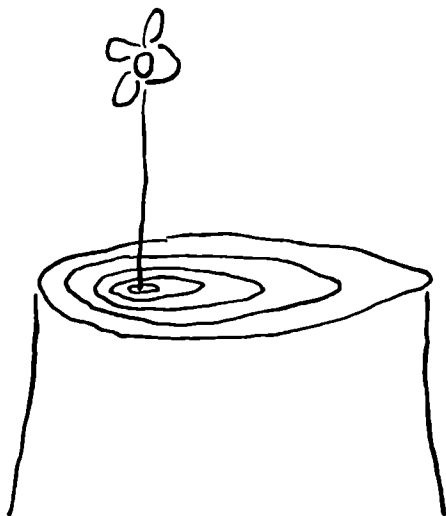
***Sorrowful  
knowledge***

- <sup>25</sup>"My days are swifter than a runner;  
they flee away, they see no good.  
<sup>26</sup>They go by like skiffs of reed,  
like an eagle swooping on the prey."



***The inevitability  
of death***

<sup>7</sup>"For there is hope for a tree,  
if it is cut down, that it will sprout again,  
and that its shoots will not cease.  
<sup>8</sup>Though its root grows old in the earth,  
and its stump dies in the ground,  
<sup>9</sup>yet at the scent of water it will bud  
and put forth branches like a young plant.  
<sup>10</sup>But mortals die, and are laid low;  
humans expire, and where are they? . . .  
<sup>12</sup>so mortals lie down and do not rise again;  
until the heavens are no more,  
they will not awake  
or be roused out of their sleep."



***Desire to  
be close  
to God***

<sup>3</sup>Oh, that I knew where I might find him,  
that I might come even to his dwelling!

<sup>4</sup>I would lay my case before him,  
and fill my mouth with arguments.

<sup>5</sup>I would learn what he would answer me,  
and understand what he would say to me.

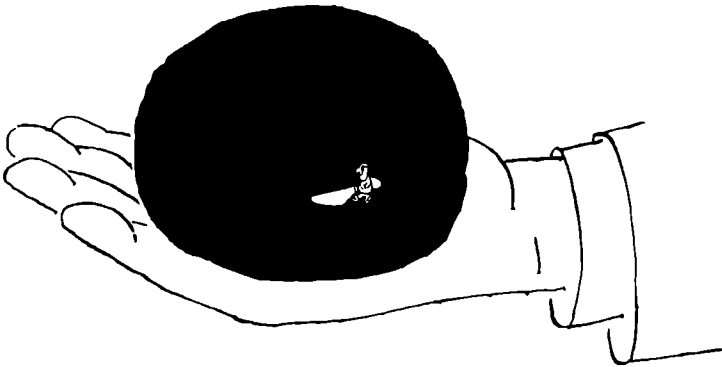
<sup>6</sup>Would he contend with me in the greatness  
of his power?

No; but he would give heed to me.

<sup>7</sup>There an upright person could reason  
with him,  
and I should be acquitted forever  
by my judge.

<sup>8</sup>"If I go forward, he is not there;  
or backward, I cannot perceive him;

<sup>9</sup>on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him  
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him."



**Questions  
and  
answers**

**38** Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

<sup>2</sup>"Who is this that darkens counsel  
by words without knowledge?

<sup>3</sup>Gird up your loins like a man,  
I will question you, and you shall  
declare to me.

<sup>4</sup>"Where were you when I laid the  
foundation of the earth?  
Tell me, if you have understanding.

<sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements—surely  
you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

<sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone . . . ?

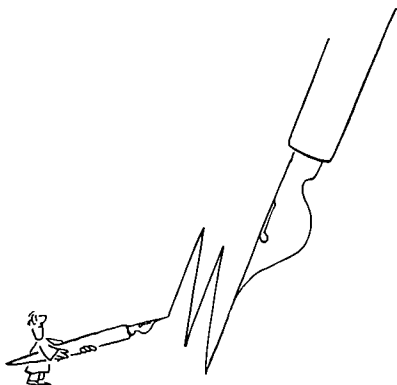
<sup>19</sup>"Where is the way to the dwelling of light,  
and where is the place of darkness . . . ?

<sup>31</sup>"Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades,  
or loose the cords of Orion? . . .

<sup>33</sup>Do you know the ordinances of the heavens  
Can you establish their rule on the  
earth? . . .

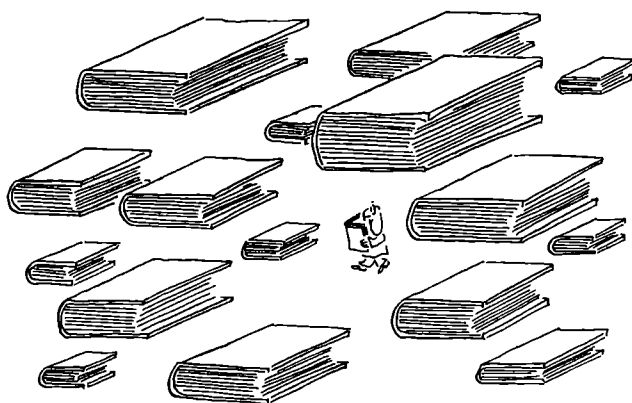
**40** <sup>2</sup>And the LORD said to Job:  
"Shall a faultfinder contend with  
the Almighty?

Anyone who argues with God  
must respond."



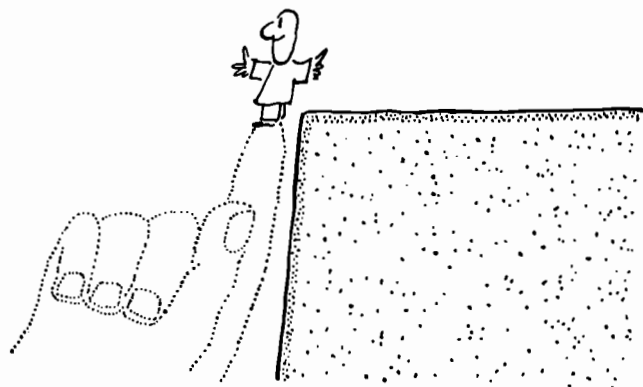
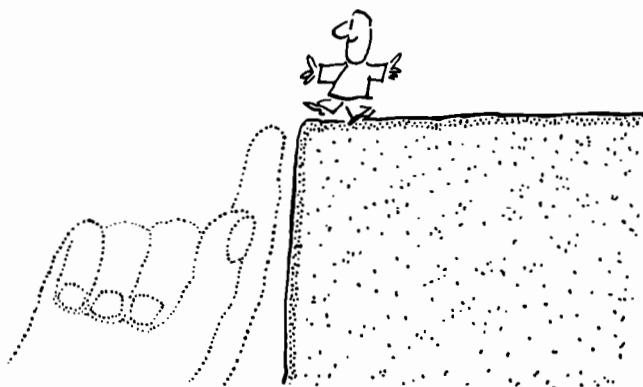
**True light**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those  
    who do not follow the advice of the wicked  
    or take the path that sinners tread,  
    or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
<sup>2</sup>but their delight is in the law of the LORD  
    and on his law they meditate day and night.  
<sup>3</sup>They are like trees  
    planted by streams of water,  
    which yield their fruit in its season,  
    and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.



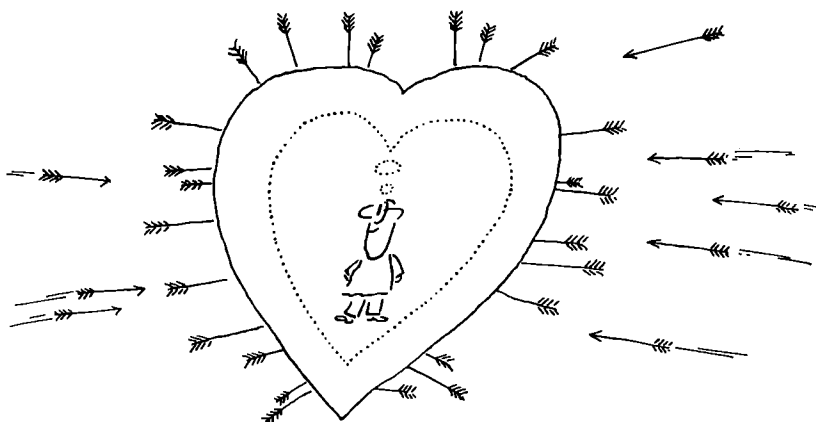
**God's  
protection**

<sup>10</sup>For you do not give me up to Sheol,  
or let your faithful one see the Pit.  
<sup>11</sup>You show me the path of life.  
In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures  
forevermore.



<sup>2</sup>The LORD is my rock, my fortress,  
and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation,  
my stronghold.

<sup>3</sup>I call upon the LORD, who is worthy  
to be praised,  
so I shall be saved from my enemies.



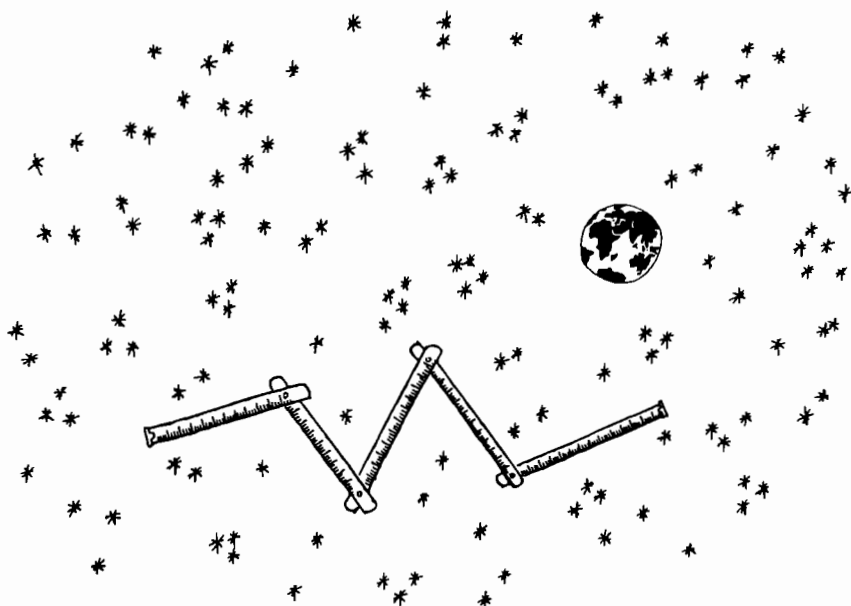
**Witness  
without  
words**

<sup>2</sup>Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.  
<sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;  
<sup>4</sup>yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,  
<sup>5</sup>which comes out like a bridegroom from his  
wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its  
course with joy.

<sup>6</sup>Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hid from its heat.

<sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the LORD are sure,  
making wise the simple . . .

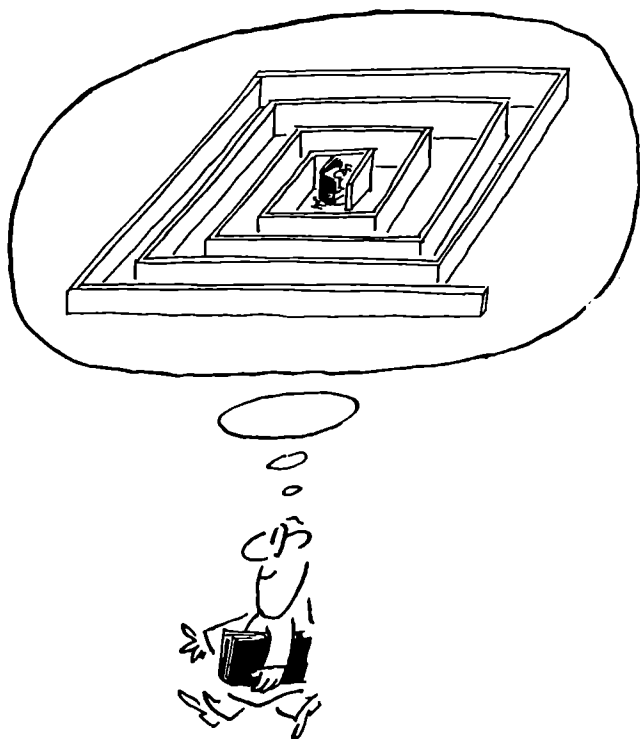




<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.



<sup>6</sup>He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.  
<sup>7</sup>On God rests my deliverance and my honor;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. . . .  
<sup>9</sup>Those of low estate are but a breath,  
those of high estate are a delusion . . . .



***Eternity  
and the  
transitory***

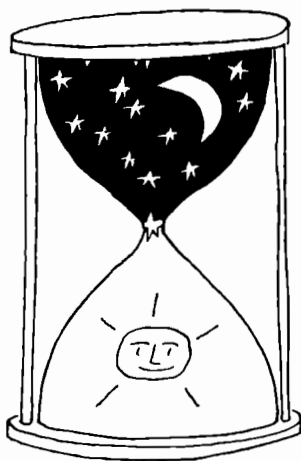
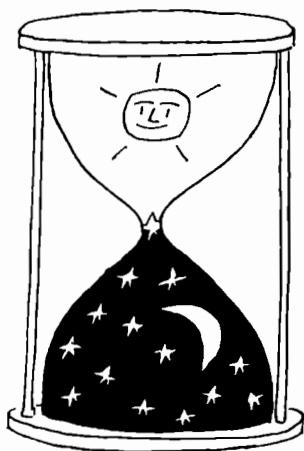
<sup>1</sup>LORD, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.

<sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the  
earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting  
you are God.

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to dust,  
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

<sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past,  
or like a watch in the night. . . .

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to count our days  
that we may gain a wise heart.

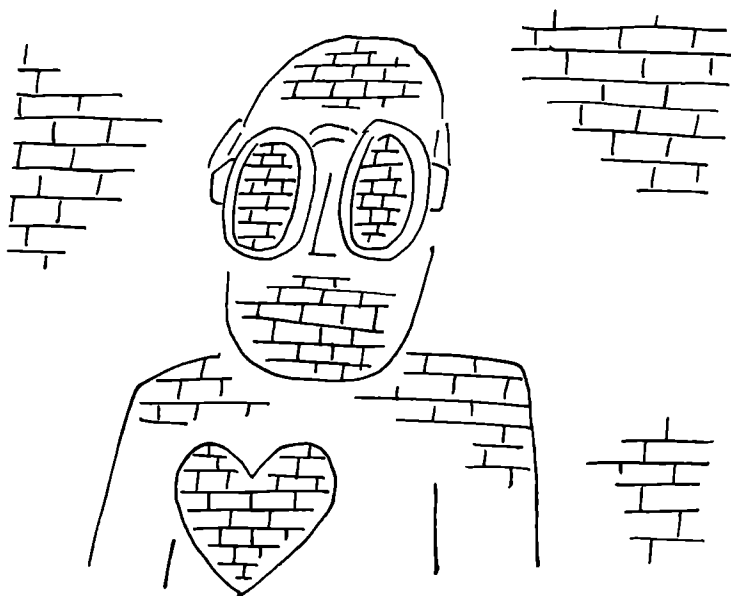


<sup>16</sup>Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.

<sup>17</sup>Let the favor of the LORD our God  
be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!

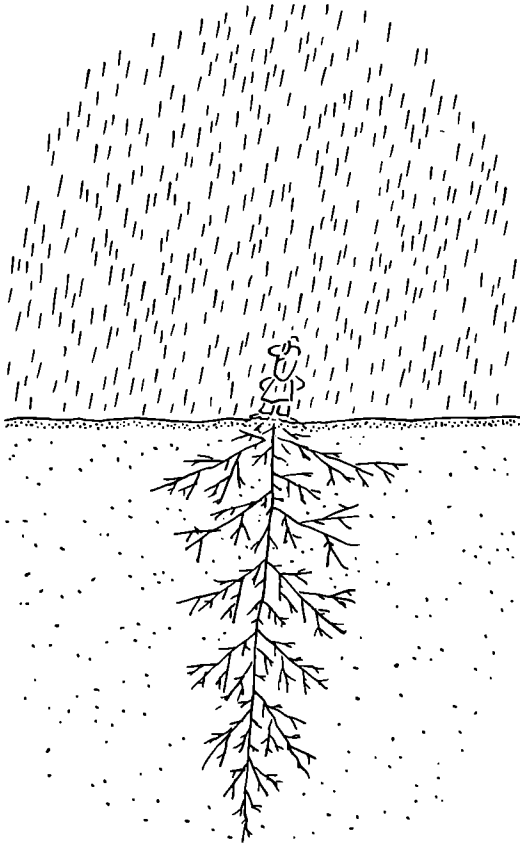


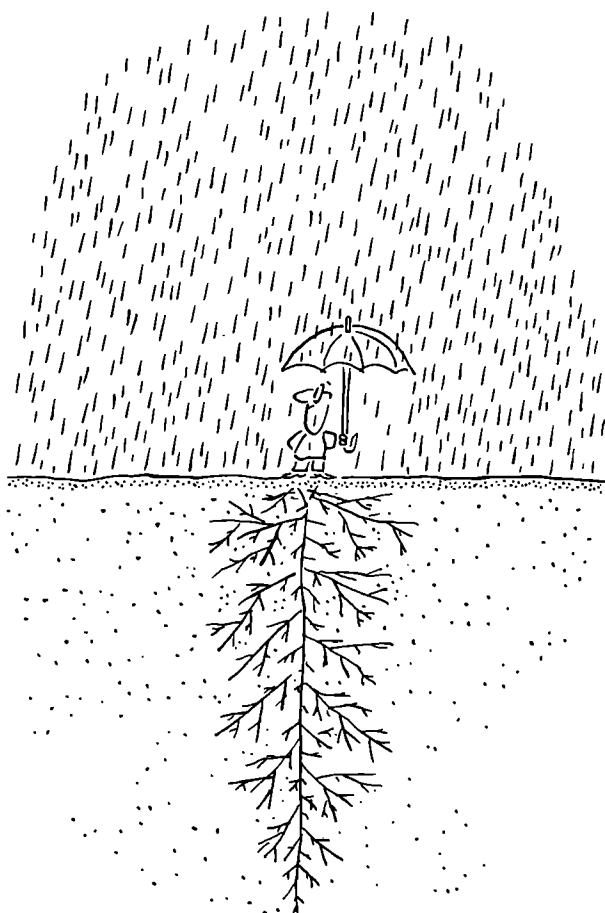
<sup>18</sup>Open my eyes, so that I may behold  
wondrous things out of your law.



**Guardian**

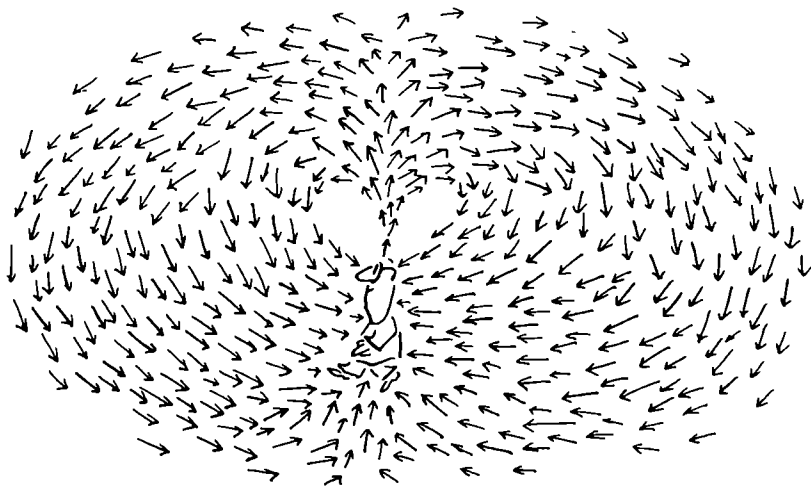
- <sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.  
<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.





**Birth of  
faith**

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you have searched me  
and known me.  
<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and  
when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
<sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquired with all my ways.  
<sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.  
<sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.





***The burden  
of a deed***

<sup>2</sup>I pour out my complaint before him;

I tell my trouble before him.

<sup>3</sup>When my spirit is faint,

you know my way.

In the path where I walk

they have hidden a trap for me.

<sup>4</sup>Look on my right hand and see—

there is no one who takes notice of me;

no refuge remains to me;

no one cares for me.



**Education  
to wisdom**

**1** The proverbs of Solomon son of David,  
king of Israel:

<sup>2</sup>For learning about wisdom and instruction,  
for understanding words of insight,

<sup>3</sup>for gaining instruction in wise dealing,  
righteousness, justice, and equity;

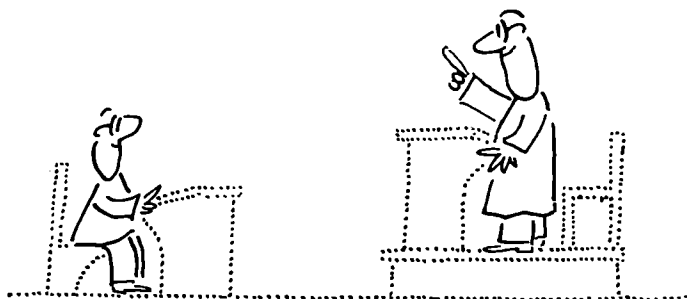
<sup>4</sup>to teach shrewdness to the simple,  
knowledge and prudence to the young—

<sup>5</sup>Let the wise also hear and gain in learning,  
and the discerning acquire skill,

<sup>6</sup>to understand a proverb and a figure,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.

<sup>7</sup>The fear of the LORD is the  
beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

<sup>8</sup>Hear, my child, your father's instruction,  
and do not reject your mother's  
teaching . . . .



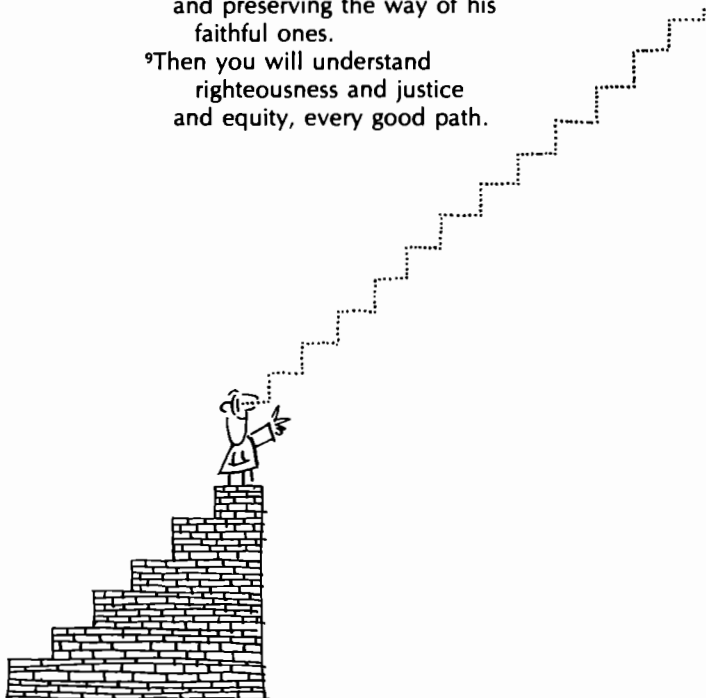
**Refusal**

- <sup>20</sup>Wisdom cries out in the street;  
in the squares she raises her voice.  
<sup>21</sup>At the busiest corner she cries out;  
at the entrance of the city gates  
she speaks:  
<sup>22</sup>"How long, O simple ones, will  
you love being simple?  
How long will scoffers delight in  
their scoffing  
and fools hate knowledge?  
<sup>23</sup>Give heed to my reproof;  
I will pour out my thoughts to you;  
I will make my words known to you  
<sup>24</sup>Because I have called and you refused,  
have stretched out my hand and  
no one heeded,  
<sup>25</sup>and because you have ignored all  
my counsel  
and would have none of my reproof,  
<sup>26</sup>I also will laugh at your calamity;  
I will mock when panic strikes you."



**Perception**

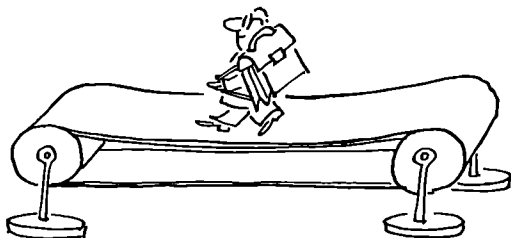
**2** My child, if you accept my words  
and treasure up my commandments  
within you,  
<sup>2</sup>making your ear attentive to wisdom  
and inclining your heart to understanding;  
<sup>3</sup>if you indeed cry out for insight,  
and raise your voice for understanding;  
<sup>4</sup>if you seek it like silver,  
and search for it as for hidden treasures—  
<sup>5</sup>then you will understand the fear of the LORD  
and find the knowledge of God.  
<sup>6</sup>For the LORD gives wisdom;  
from his mouth come  
knowledge and understanding;  
<sup>7</sup>he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;  
he is a shield to those who walk  
blamelessly,  
<sup>8</sup>guarding the paths of justice  
and preserving the way of his  
faithful ones.  
<sup>9</sup>Then you will understand  
righteousness and justice  
and equity, every good path.



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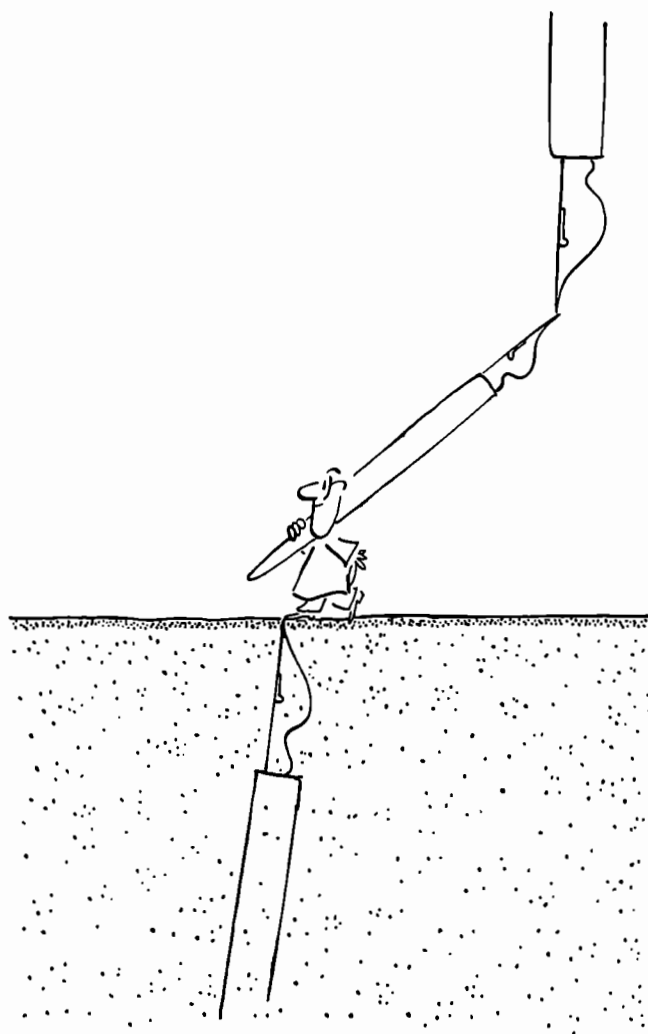
**PROVERBS 3:5**

<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own insight.

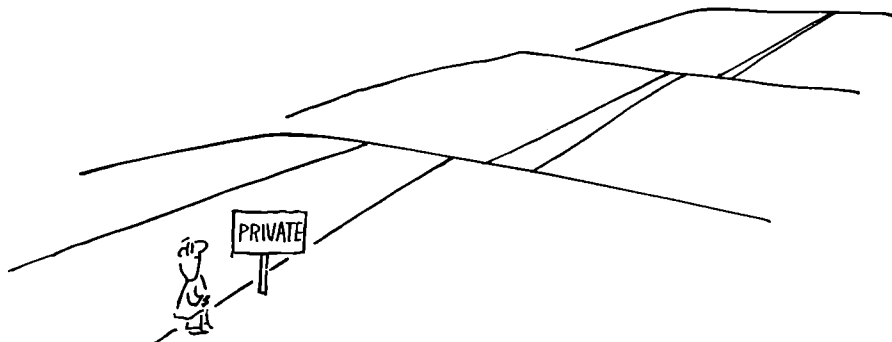


***Between  
heaven and  
earth***

- <sup>13</sup>Happy are those who find wisdom,  
and those who get understanding,  
<sup>14</sup>for her income is better than silver,  
and her revenue better than gold.  
<sup>15</sup>She is more precious than jewels,  
and nothing you desire can  
compare with her.  
<sup>16</sup>Long life is in her right hand;  
in her left hand are riches and honor.  
<sup>17</sup>Her ways are ways of pleasantness,  
and all her paths are peace.  
<sup>18</sup>She is a tree of life to those who  
lay hold of her;  
those who hold her fast are called happy.  
<sup>19</sup>The LORD by wisdom founded the earth;  
by understanding he established  
the heavens;  
<sup>20</sup>by his knowledge the deeps broke open,  
and the clouds drop down the dew.  
<sup>21</sup>My child, do not let these escape  
from your sight;  
keep sound wisdom and prudence,  
<sup>22</sup>and they will be life for your soul  
and adornment for your neck.  
<sup>23</sup>Then you will walk on your way securely  
and your foot will not stumble.  
<sup>24</sup>If you sit down, you will not be afraid;  
when you lie down, your sleep  
will be sweet.  
<sup>25</sup>Do not be afraid of sudden panic,  
or of the storm that strikes the wicked;  
<sup>26</sup>for the LORD will be your confidence  
and will keep your foot from  
being caught.

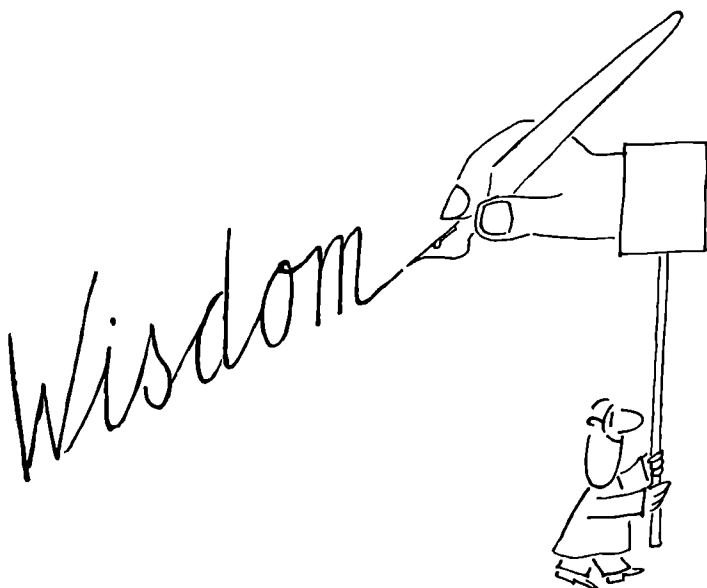


- <sup>14</sup>Do not enter the path of the wicked,  
and do not walk in the way of evildoers.  
<sup>15</sup>Avoid it; do not go on it;  
turn away from it and pass on.  
<sup>16</sup>For they cannot sleep unless they  
have done wrong;  
they are robbed of sleep unless  
they have made someone stumble.  
<sup>17</sup>For they eat the bread of wickedness  
and drink the wine of violence.  
<sup>18</sup>But the path of the righteous is  
like the light of dawn,  
which shines brighter and  
brighter until full day.  
<sup>19</sup>The way of the wicked is like  
deep darkness;  
they do not know what they stumble over.





**8** Does not wisdom call,  
and does not understanding raise  
her voice?  
<sup>2</sup>On the heights, beside the way,  
at the crossroads she takes her stand;  
<sup>3</sup>beside the gates in front of the town,  
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:  
<sup>4</sup>"To you, O people, I call,  
and my cry is to all that live.  
<sup>5</sup>O simple ones, learn prudence;  
acquire intelligence, you who lack it."



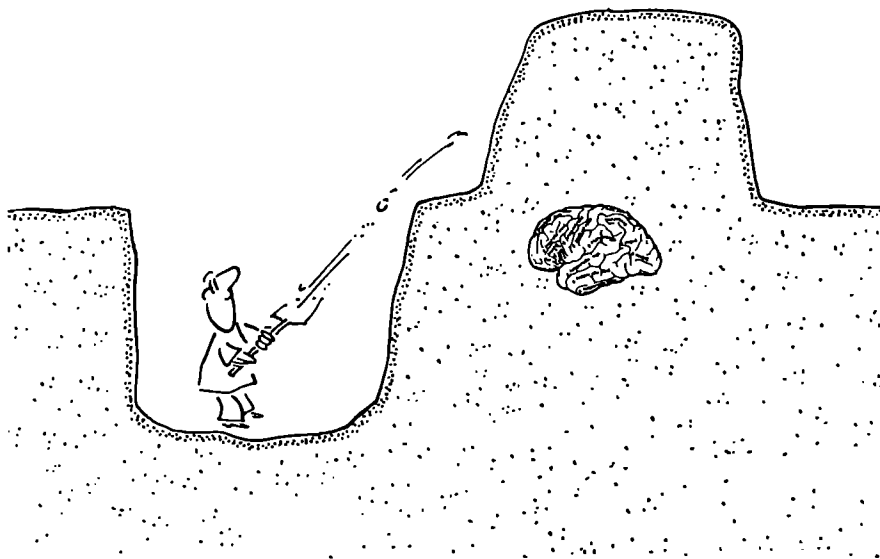
***Searching  
for wisdom***

<sup>33</sup>"Hear instruction and be wise,  
and do not neglect it.

<sup>34</sup>Happy is the one who listens to me,  
watching daily at my gates,  
waiting beside my doors.

<sup>35</sup>For whoever finds me finds life  
and obtains favor from the LORD;

<sup>36</sup>but those who miss me injure themselves;  
all who hate me love death."



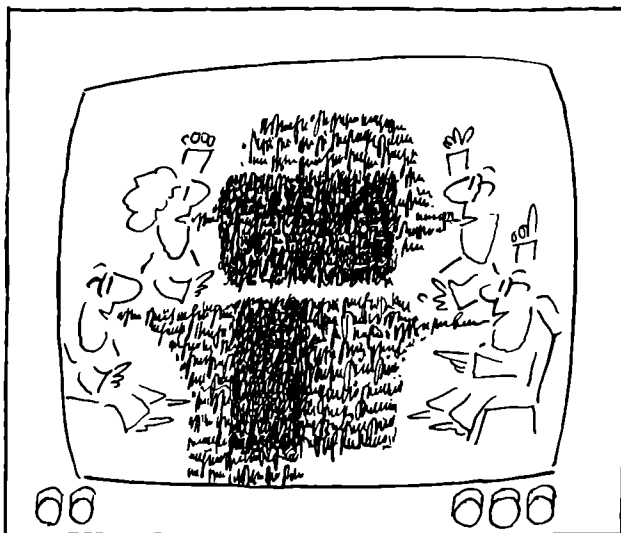
**Stupidity calls**

- <sup>13</sup>The foolish woman is loud;  
she is ignorant and knows nothing.  
<sup>14</sup>She sits at the door of her house,  
on a seat at the high places of the town,  
<sup>15</sup>calling to those who pass by,  
who are going straight on their way,  
<sup>16</sup>"You who are simple, turn in here!"  
And to those without sense she says,  
<sup>17</sup>"Stolen water is sweet,  
and bread eaten in secret is pleasant."  
<sup>18</sup>But they do not know that the  
dead are there,  
that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.



**Disturbance**

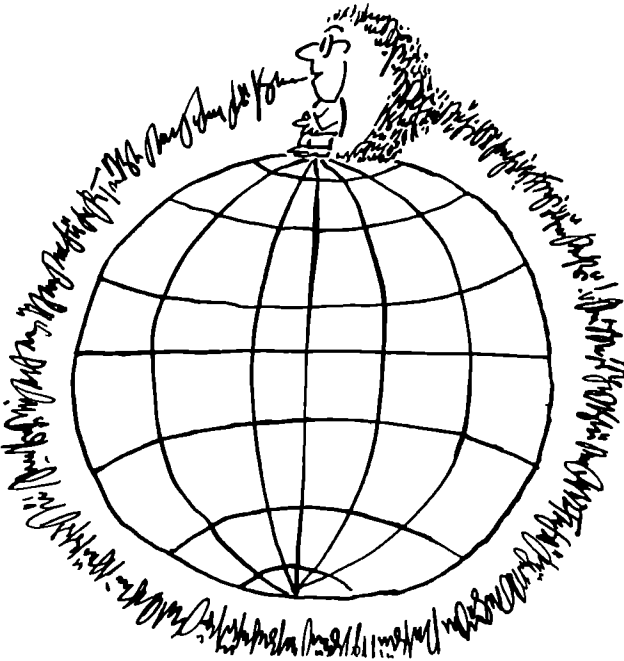
<sup>19</sup>When words are many,  
transgression is not lacking,  
but the prudent are restrained in speech.



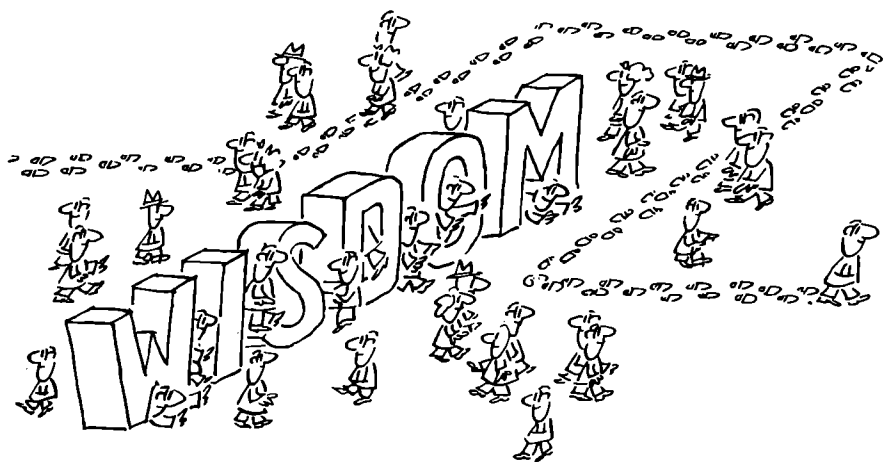
**"See you again"**

<sup>13</sup>The evil are ensnared by the  
transgression of their lips,  
but the righteous escape from trouble.

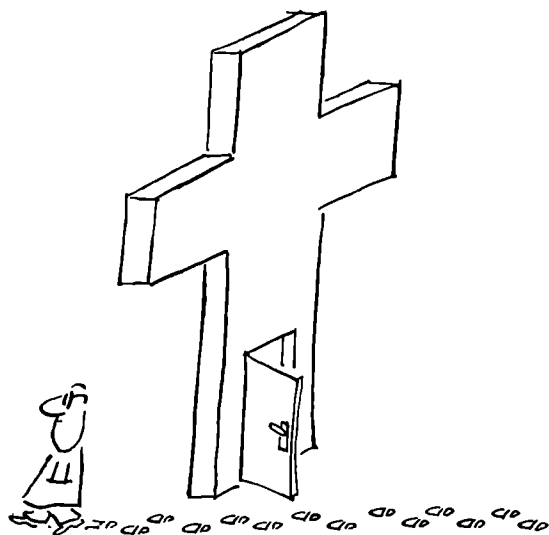
<sup>14</sup>From the fruit of the mouth one is  
filled with good things,  
and manual labor has its reward.



It is the wisdom of the clever to  
understand where they go,  
but the folly of fools misleads.

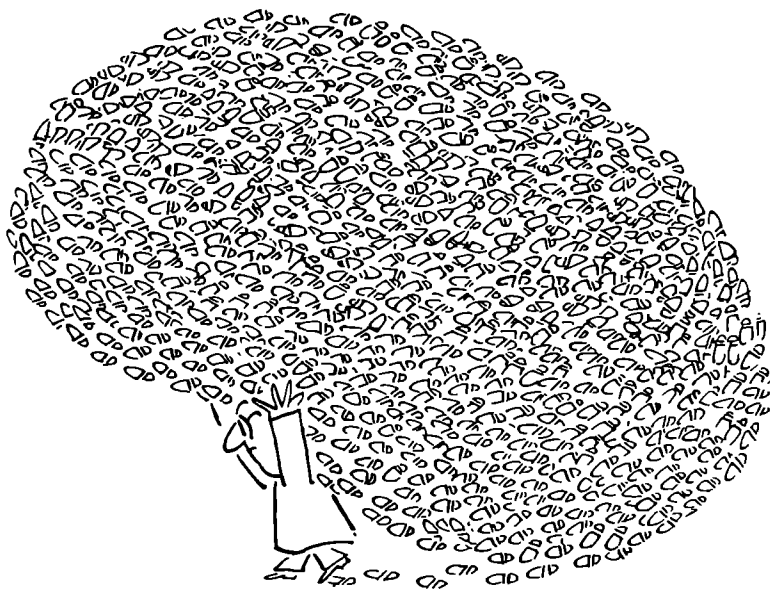


<sup>12</sup>There is a way that seems right to a person,  
but its end is the way to death.



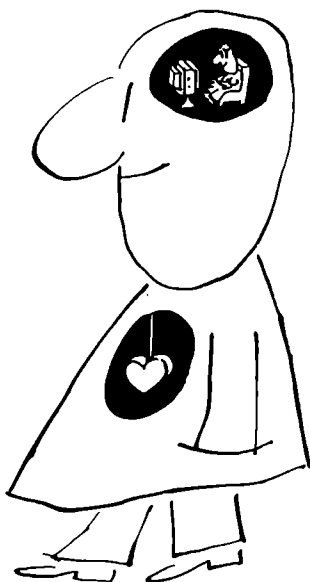
### **Burden of proof**

**14The perverse get what their ways deserve,  
and the good, what their deeds deserve.**

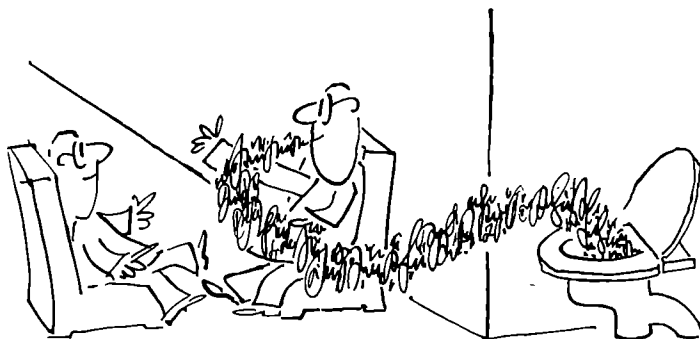




<sup>33</sup>Wisdom is at home in the mind of  
one who has understanding,  
but it is not known in the heart of fools.



<sup>2</sup>The tongue of the wise dispenses knowledge,  
but the mouths of fools pour out folly.



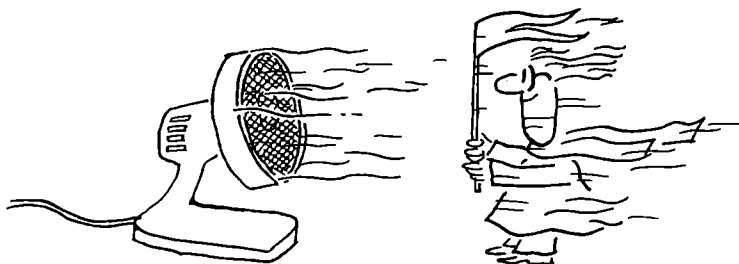
**Lure**

<sup>5</sup>Whoever flatters a neighbor  
is spreading a net for the neighbor's feet.



***Self-deceit***

<sup>2</sup>Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.



**Cycle**

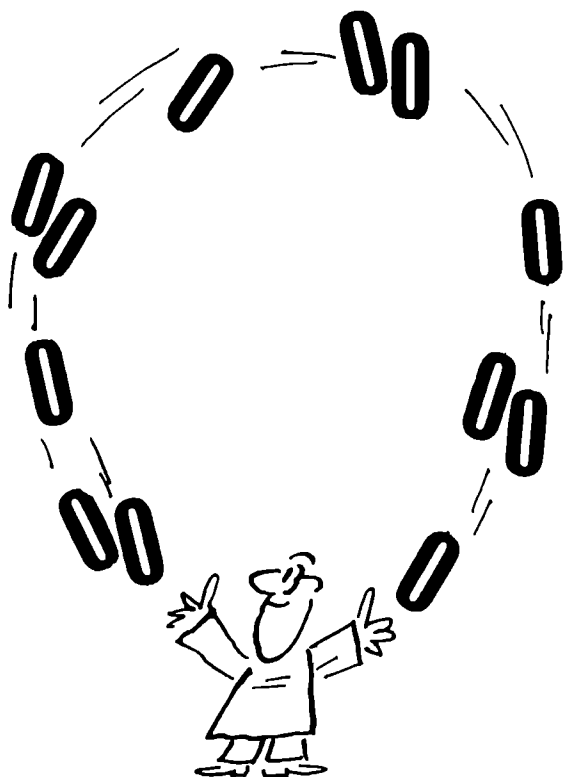
<sup>3</sup>What do people gain from all the toil  
at which they toil under the sun?

<sup>4</sup>A generation goes, and a generation comes,  
but the earth remains forever.

<sup>5</sup>The sun rises and the sun goes down,  
and hurries to the place where it rises.

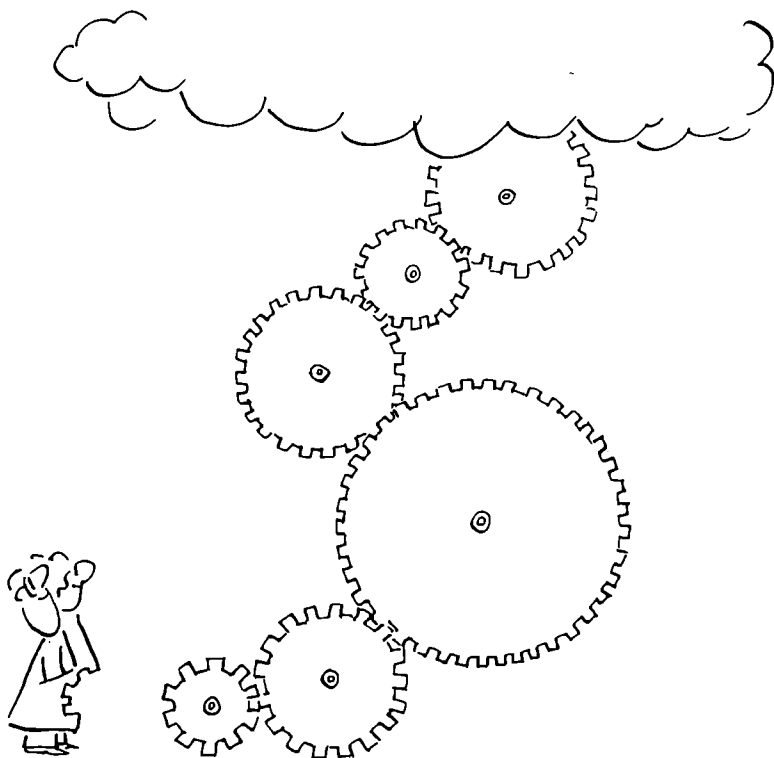
<sup>6</sup>The wind blows to the south,  
and goes around to the north;  
round and round goes the wind,  
and on its circuits the wind returns.

<sup>7</sup>All streams run to the sea,  
but the sea is not full;  
to the place where the streams flow,  
there they continue to flow.



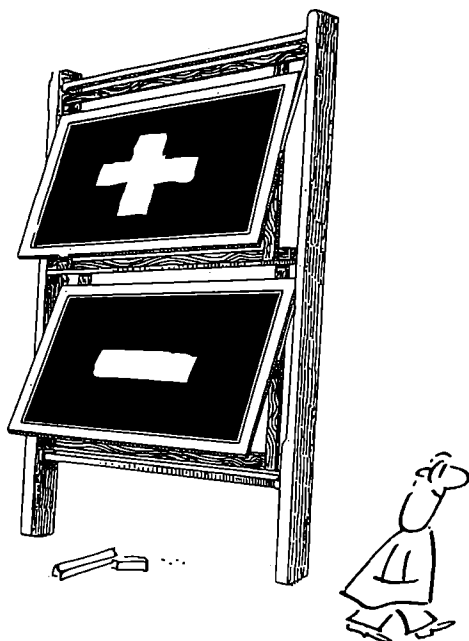
**Gears in us**

**3** For everything there is a season, and a  
a time for every matter under heaven:  
<sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up  
what is planted;  
<sup>3</sup>a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time  
to build up;  
<sup>4</sup>a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance; . . .  
<sup>a</sup>a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

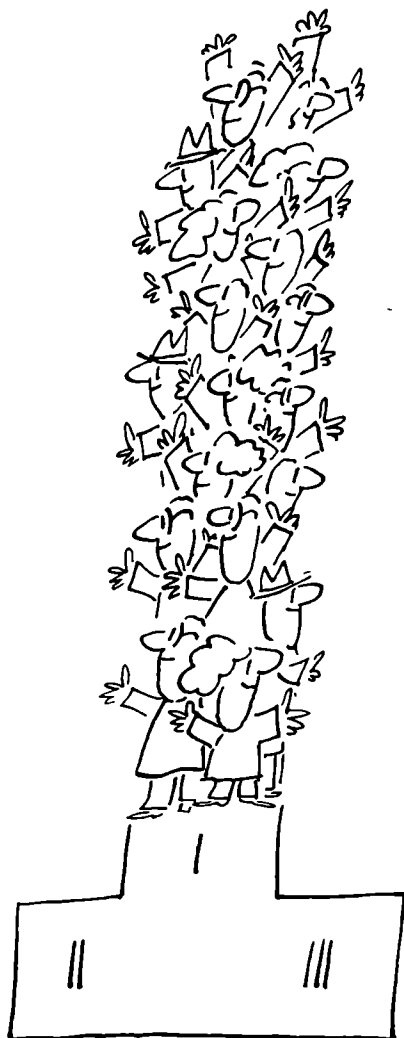


***Personal  
contribution***

<sup>14</sup>I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.



<sup>4</sup>Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from one person's envy of another. This also is vanity and a chasing after wind.





**Short and  
concise**

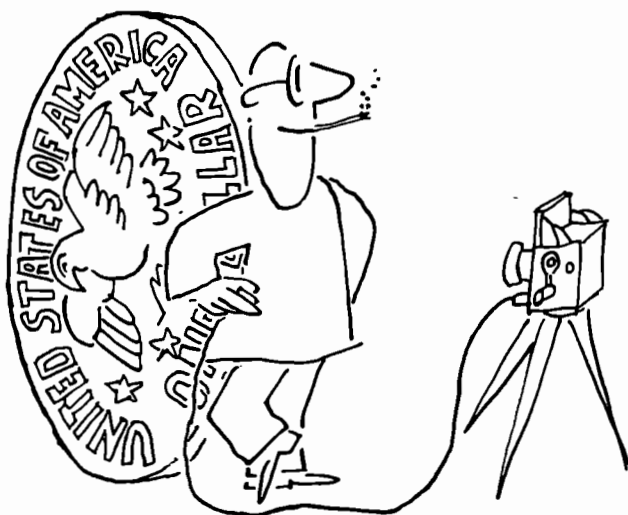
**5** Guard your steps when you go to the house of God; to draw near to listen is better than the sacrifice offered by fools; for they do not know how to keep from doing evil. <sup>2</sup>Never be rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be quick to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven, and you upon earth; therefore let your words be few.

<sup>3</sup>For dreams come with many cares, and a fool's voice with many words.



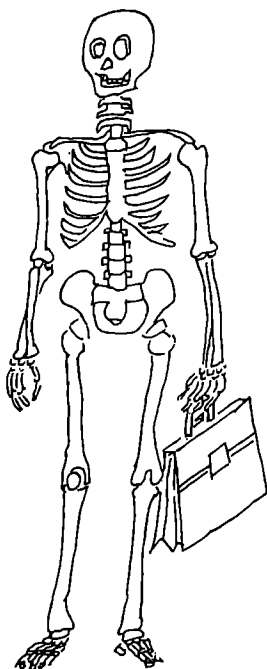
<sup>9</sup>But all things considered, this is an advantage for a land: a king for a plowed field.

<sup>10</sup>The lover of money will not be satisfied with money; nor the lover of wealth, with gain. This also is vanity.



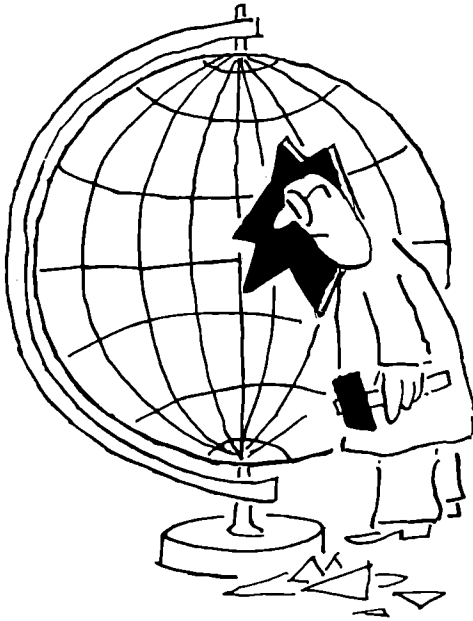
***“You can’t  
take it  
with you.”***

<sup>13</sup>There is a grievous ill that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owners to their hurt, <sup>14</sup>and those riches were lost in a bad venture; though they are parents of children, they have nothing in their hands. <sup>15</sup>As they came from their mother’s womb, so they shall go again, naked as they came; they shall take nothing for their toil, which they may carry away with their hands. <sup>16</sup>This also is a grievous ill: just as they came, so shall they go; and what gain do they have from toiling for the wind?



***Philosophical  
observations***

<sup>16</sup>When I applied my mind to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how one's eyes see sleep neither day nor night, <sup>17</sup>then I saw all the work of God, that no one can find out what is happening under the sun. However much they may toil in seeking, they will not find it out; even though those who are wise claim to know, they cannot find it out.

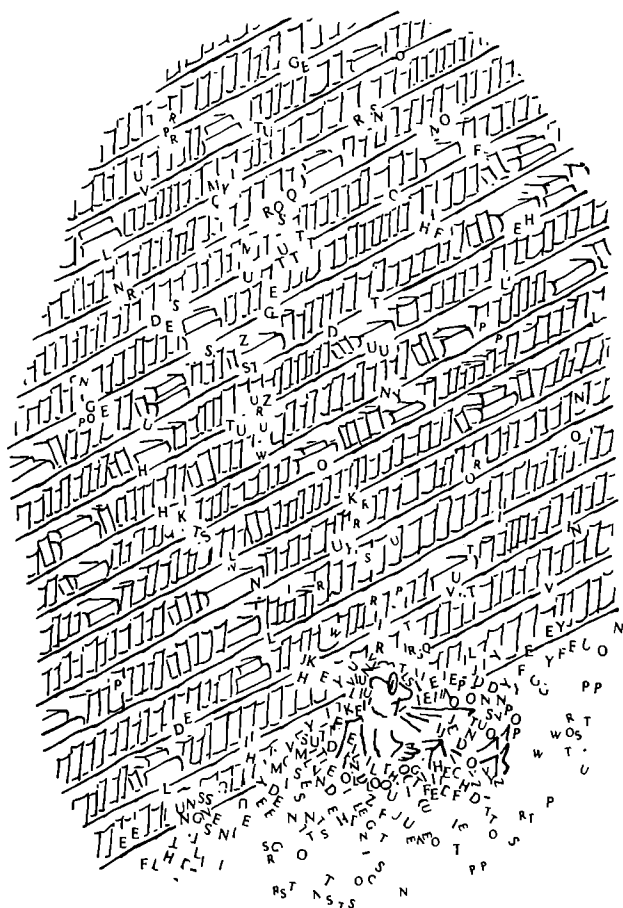




**Epilogue**

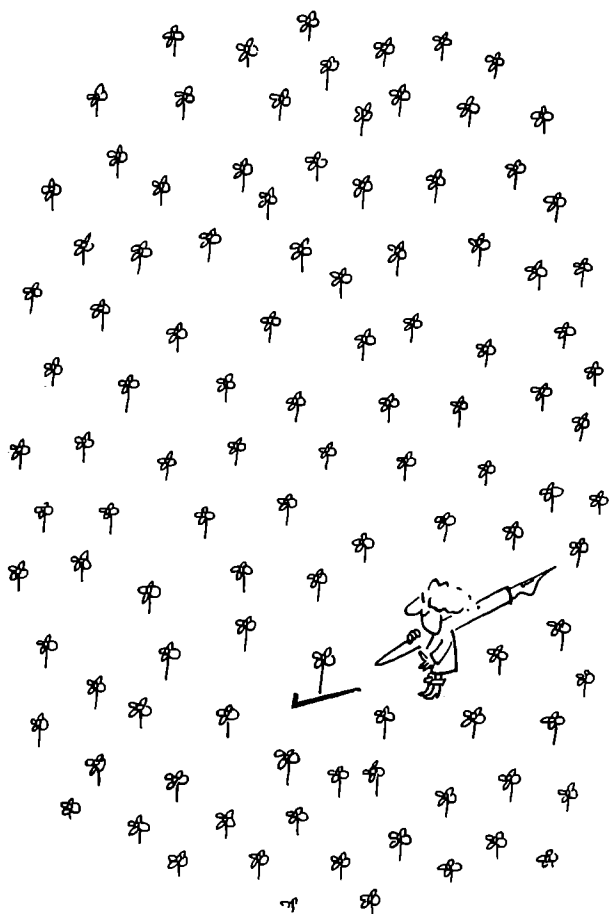
<sup>12</sup>Of anything beyond these, my child, beware. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

<sup>13</sup>The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone. <sup>14</sup>For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.



***Love makes all  
things better***

<sup>3</sup>As an apple tree among the trees of the wood  
so is my beloved among young men.  
With great delight I sat in his shadow,  
and his fruit was sweet to my taste.



**Searching**

**3** Upon my bed at night  
I sought him whom my soul loves;  
I sought him, but found him not;  
I called him, but he gave no answer.  
<sup>2</sup>"I will rise now and go about the city,  
in the streets and in the squares;  
I will seek him whom my soul loves."  
I sought him, but found him not.  
<sup>3</sup>The sentinels found me,  
as they went about in the city.  
"Have you seen him whom my soul loves?"





***Finding***

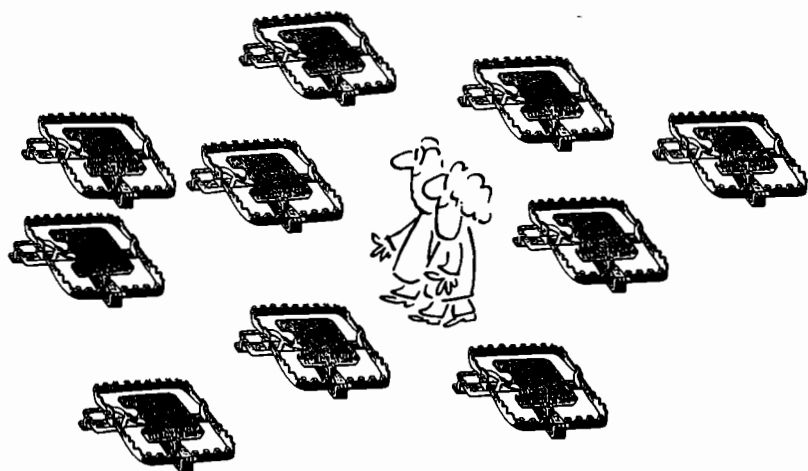
<sup>4</sup>Scarcely had I passed them,  
when I found him whom my soul loves.  
I held him, and would not let him go  
until I brought him into my mother's house,  
and into the chamber of her that  
conceived me.



***Unconquerable  
like death***

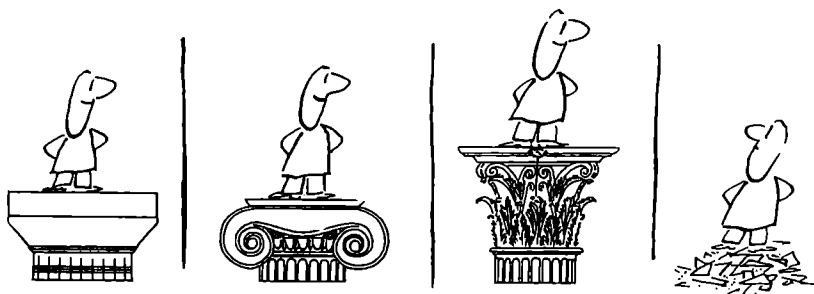
<sup>6</sup>Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm;  
for love is strong as death,  
passion fierce as the grave.  
Its flashes are flashes of fire,  
a raging flame.

<sup>7</sup>Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can floods drown it.  
If one offered for love  
all the wealth of his house,  
it would be utterly scorned.



**Pride**

- <sup>11</sup>The haughty eyes of people shall  
be brought low,  
and the pride of everyone shall  
be humbled;  
and the LORD alone will be exalted  
in that day.
- <sup>12</sup>For the LORD of hosts has a day  
against all that is proud and lofty,  
against all that is lifted up and high;
- <sup>13</sup>against all the cedars of Lebanon,  
lofty and lifted up;  
and against all the oaks of Bashan;
- <sup>14</sup>against all the high mountains,  
and against all the lofty hills;
- <sup>15</sup>against every high tower,  
and against every fortified wall;
- <sup>16</sup>against all the ships of Tarshish,  
and against all the beautiful craft.
- <sup>17</sup>The haughtiness of people shall be humbled,  
and the pride of everyone shall  
be brought low;  
and the LORD alone will be  
exalted on that day.



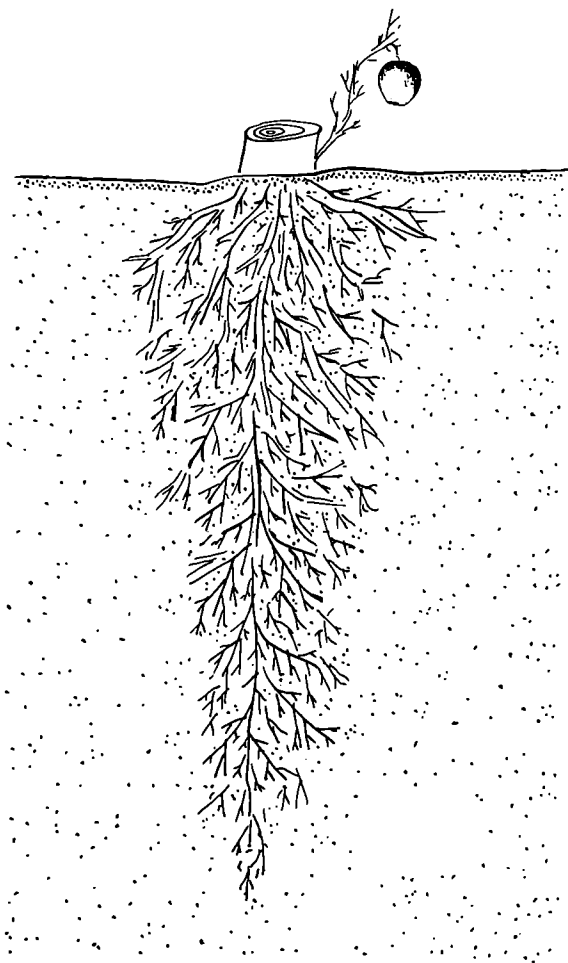
***Shepherds and  
the blind***

**3** For now the Sovereign, the LORD of hosts,  
is taking away from Jerusalem  
and from Judah  
support and staff—  
all support of bread,  
and all support of water—  
<sup>2</sup>warrior and soldier,  
judge and prophet,  
diviner and elder,  
<sup>3</sup>captain of fifty  
and dignitary,  
counselor and skillful magician  
and expert enchanter.  
<sup>4</sup>And I will make boys their princes,  
and babes shall rule over them.



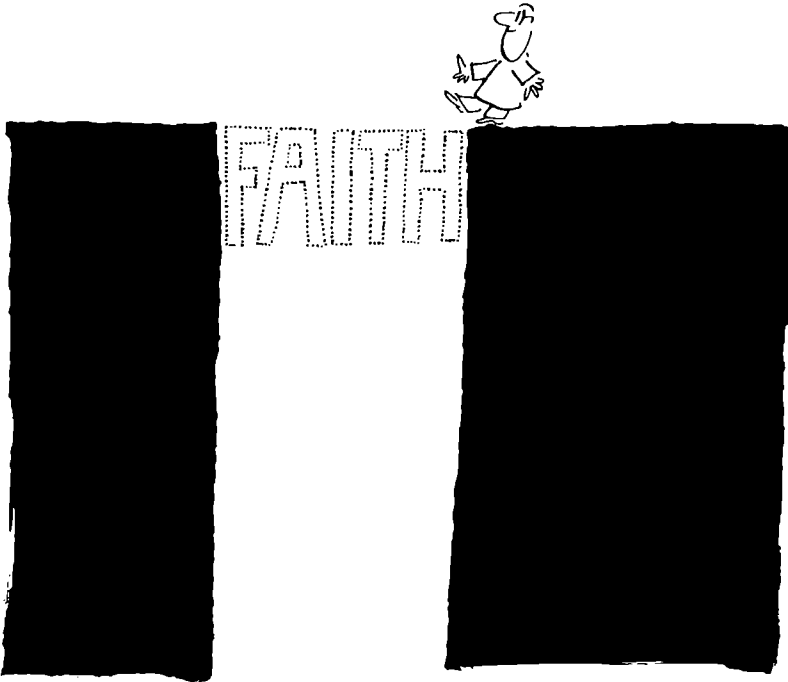
**New  
beginning**

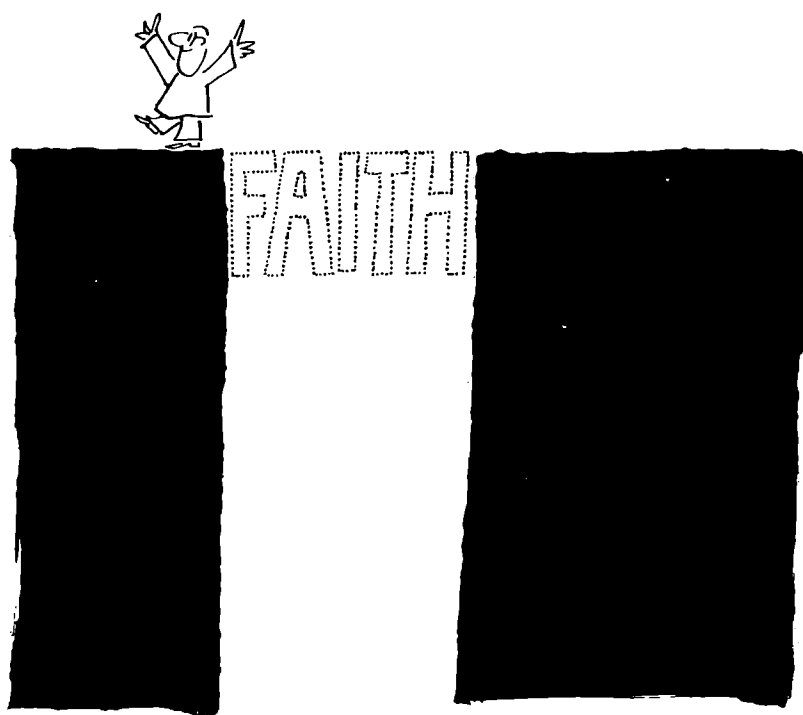
**11** A shoot shall come out from  
the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the  
fear of the LORD.



**Grace**

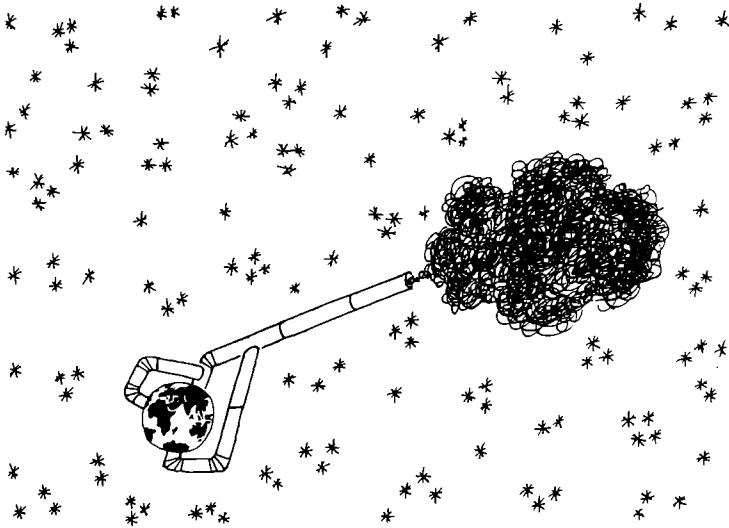
**12** You will say in that day:  
I will give thanks to you, O LORD,  
for though you were angry with me,  
your anger turned away,  
and you comforted me.  
<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD God is my strength  
and my might;  
he has become my salvation.





***The future  
of the earth***

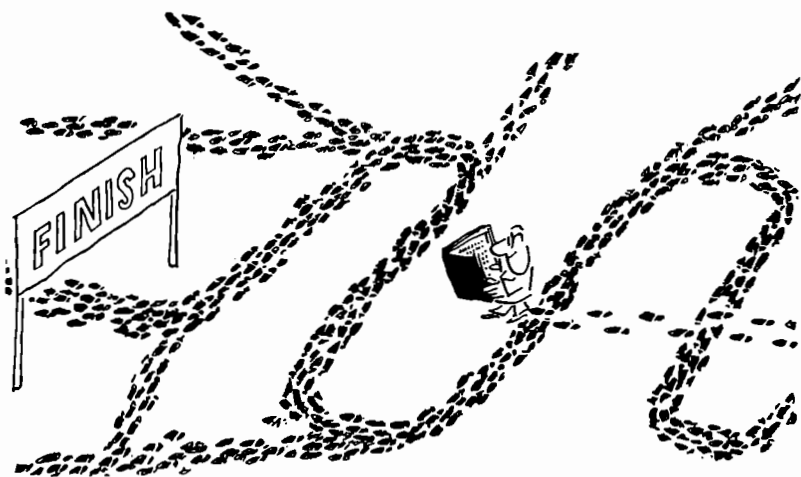
- <sup>3</sup>The earth shall be utterly laid  
waste and utterly despoiled;  
for the LORD has spoken this word.
- <sup>4</sup>The earth dries up and withers,  
the world languishes and withers;  
the heavens languish together  
with the earth.
- <sup>5</sup>The earth lies polluted  
under its inhabitants;  
for they have transgressed laws,  
violated the statutes,  
broken the everlasting covenant.
- <sup>6</sup>Therefore a curse devours the earth,  
and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt;  
therefore the inhabitants of the  
earth dwindled,  
and few people are left.



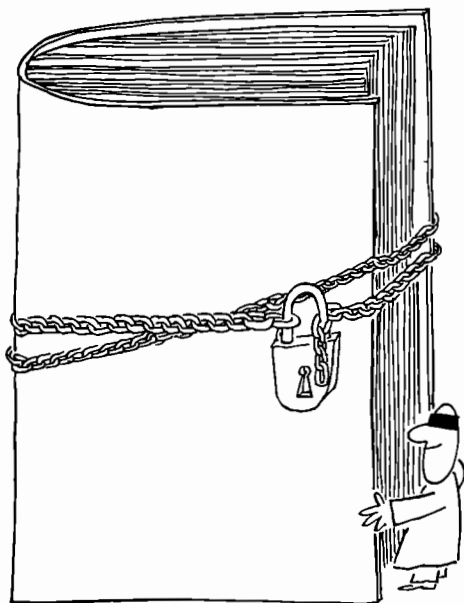


**Ways of  
life**

The way of the righteous is level;  
O Just One, you make smooth  
the path of the righteous.



<sup>11</sup>The vision of all this has become for you like the words of a sealed document. If it is given to those who can read, with the command, "Read this," they say, "We cannot, for it is sealed." <sup>12</sup>And if it is given to those who cannot read, saying, "Read this," they say, "We cannot read."



**Emergency exit**

<sup>15</sup>For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel

In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.

But you refused <sup>16</sup>and said,

"No! We will flee upon horses"—  
therefore you shall flee!

and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"—  
therefore your pursuers shall be swift!

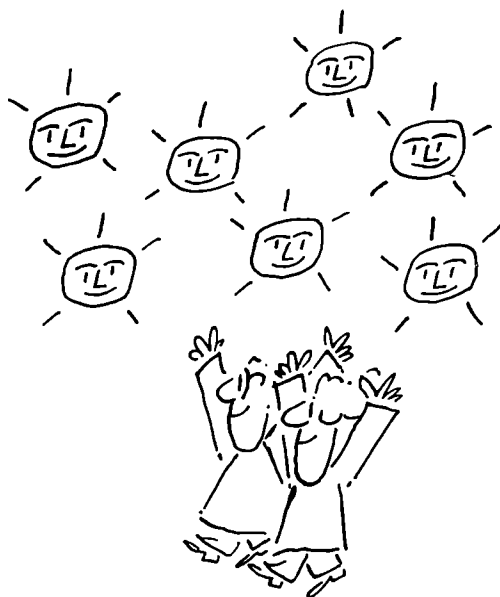
<sup>17</sup>A thousand shall flee at the threat of one,  
at the threat of five you shall flee,  
until you are left

like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,  
like a signal on a hill.



**New  
Salvation**

<sup>26</sup>Moreover the light of the moon will be like the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, like the light of seven days, on the day when the LORD binds up the injuries of his people, and heals the wounds inflicted by his blow.



**Mortal and  
eternal**

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower  
of the field.  
<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD  
blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.



THE WORD

**42** Here is my servant, whom I uphold  
my chosen, in whom my soul  
delights;

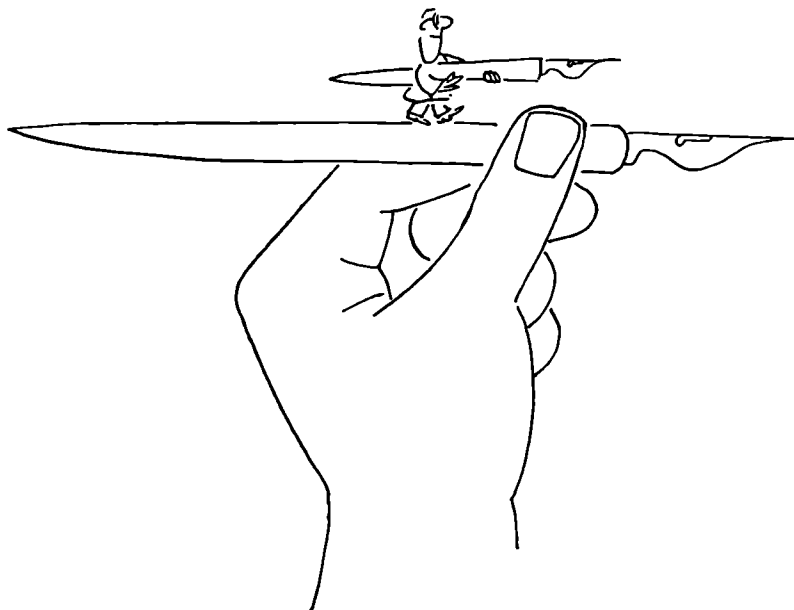
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup>He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3a</sup>a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he  
will not quench;

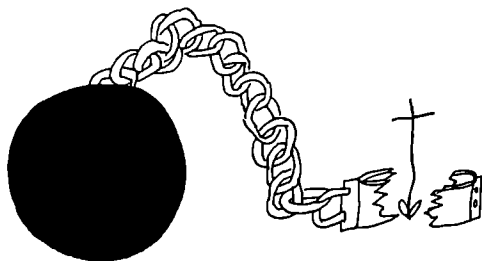
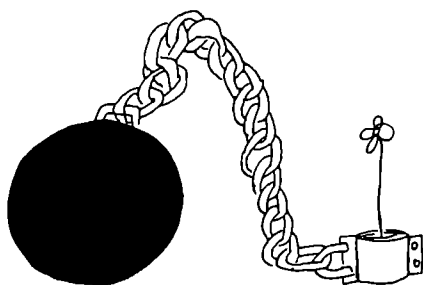
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.



**Something  
new**

<sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not  
perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.



***In the desert***

<sup>3</sup>For I will pour water on the thirsty land,  
and streams on the dry ground;  
I will pour my spirit upon your descendants,  
and my blessing on your offspring.

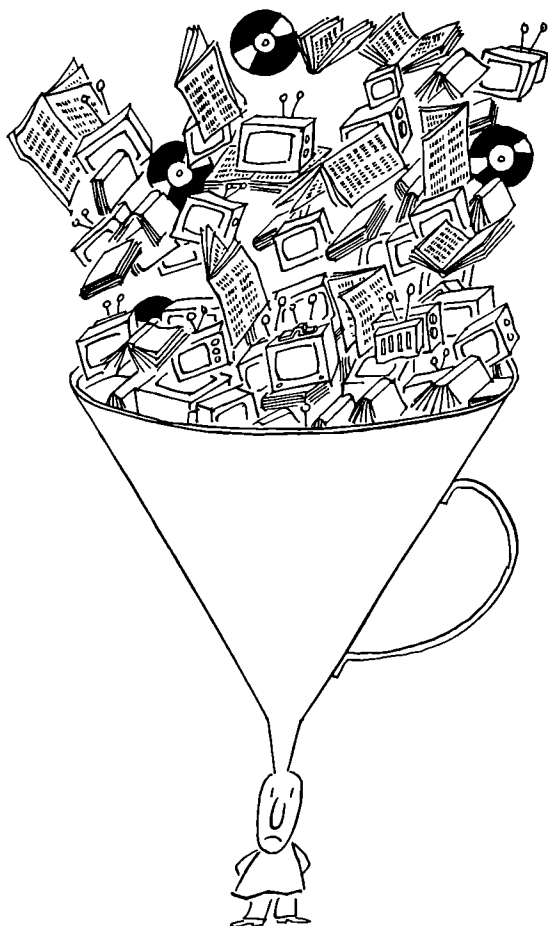
<sup>4</sup>They shall spring up like a green tamarisk,  
like willows by flowing streams.





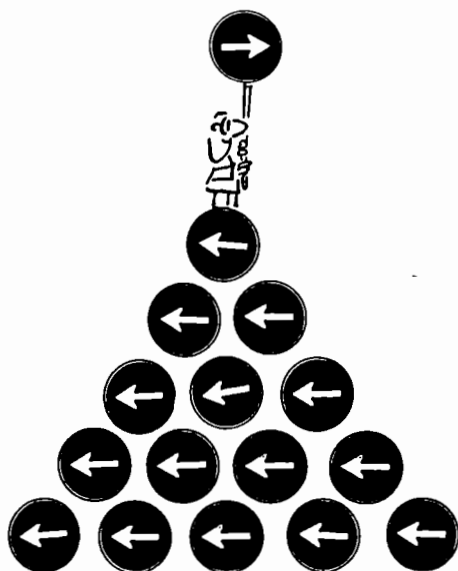
***“Having a  
big head”***

<sup>9</sup>All who make idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit; their witnesses neither see nor know. And so they will be put to shame. <sup>10</sup>Who would fashion a god or cast an image that can do no good?



***The future***

<sup>22</sup>Turn to me and be saved,  
all the ends of the earth!  
For I am God, and there is no other.



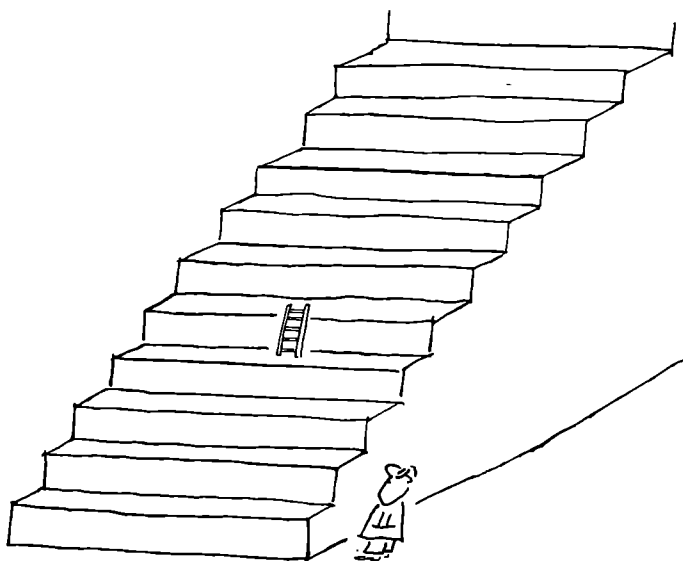
*New life*

**54** Sing, O barren one who did not bear;  
burst into song and shout,  
you who have not been in labor!  
For the children of the desolate  
woman will be more  
than the children of her that is  
married, says the LORD.  
<sup>2</sup>Enlarge the site of your tent,  
and let the curtains of your  
habitations be stretched out;  
do not hold back; lengthen your cords  
and strengthen your stakes.  
<sup>3</sup>For you will spread out to the  
right and to the left,  
and your descendants will  
possess the nations  
and will settle the desolate towns. . . .  
<sup>6</sup>For the LORD has called you  
like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,  
like the wife of a man's youth  
when she is cast off,  
says your God.



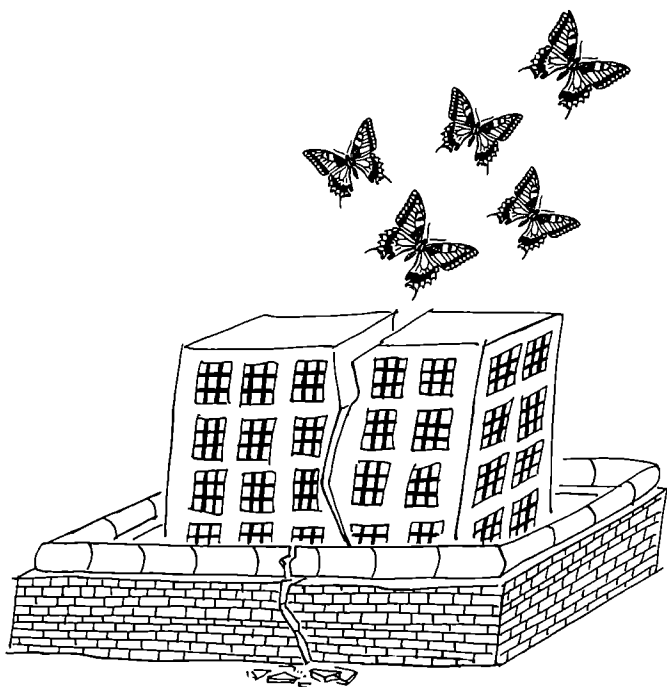
**Heavenly  
abyss**

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.



**Merciful  
summer**

**61** The spirit of the Lord God is upon me  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good  
news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn.



**A vision**

<sup>11</sup>The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see a branch of an almond tree."  
<sup>12</sup>Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

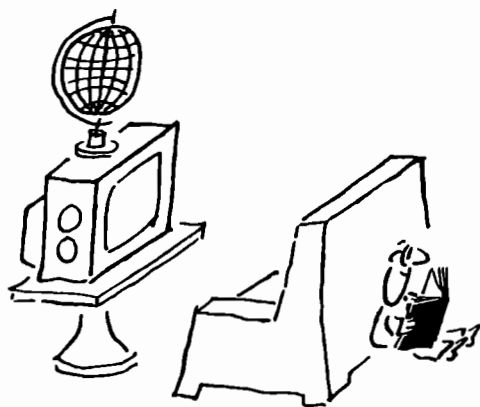


***There is  
still time***

<sup>22</sup>Return, O faithless children,  
I will heal your faithlessness.

“Here we come to you;  
for you are the LORD our God.

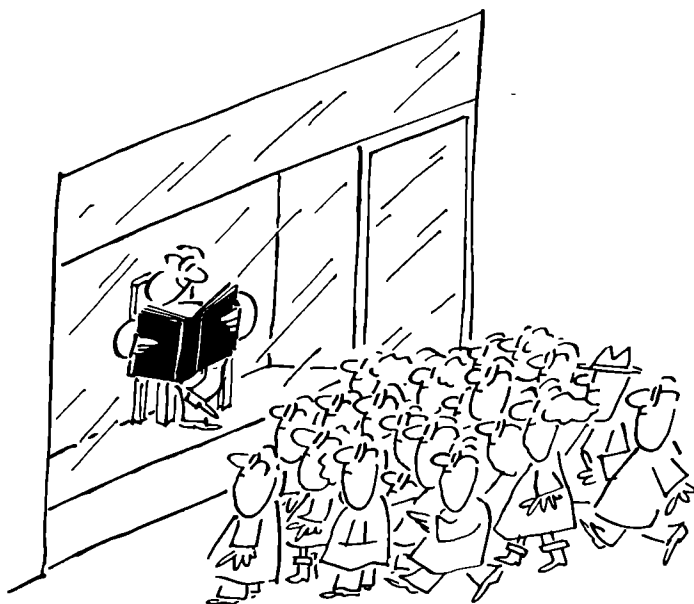
<sup>23</sup>Truly the hills are a delusion,  
the orgies on the mountains.  
Truly in the LORD our God  
is the salvation of Israel.”



**True and  
false boasting**

<sup>22</sup>Speak! Thus says the LORD:  
"Human corpses shall fall  
like dung upon the open field,  
like sheaves behind the reaper,  
and no one shall gather them."

<sup>23</sup>Thus says the LORD: Do not let the wise  
boast in their wisdom, do not let the mighty  
boast in their might, do not let the wealthy  
boast in their wealth.

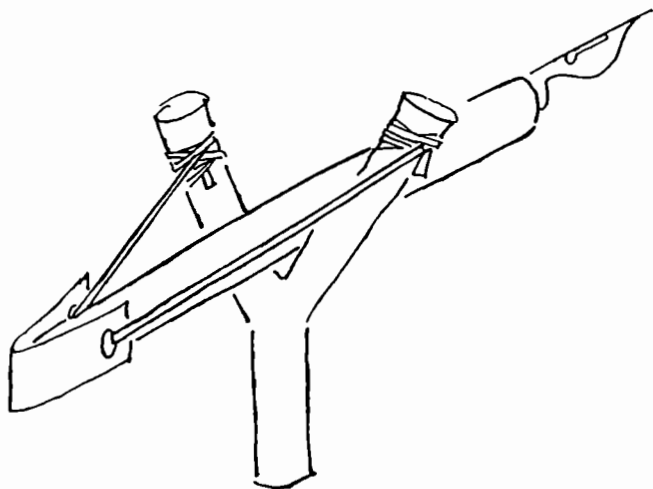




***Jeremiah asks  
for a just  
punishment***

<sup>23</sup>I know, O LORD, that the way of  
human beings is not in their control,  
that mortals as they walk cannot  
direct their steps.

<sup>24</sup>Correct me, O LORD, but in just measure;  
not in your anger, or you will  
bring me to nothing.



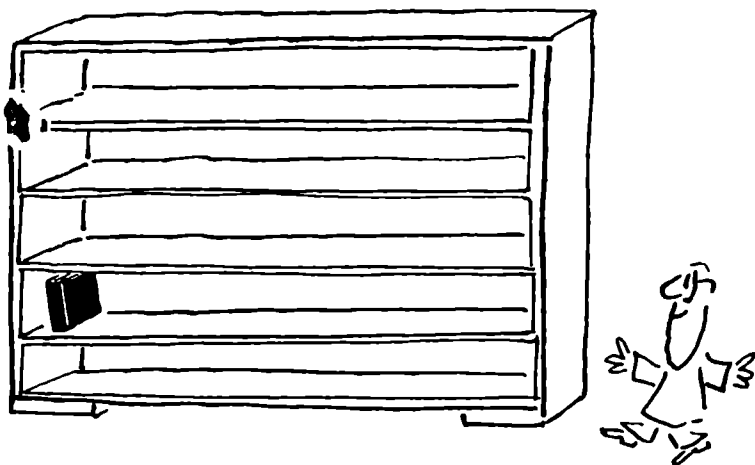
**Relying on  
a lie**

<sup>14</sup>And the LORD said to me: The prophets are prophesying lies in my name; I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds.



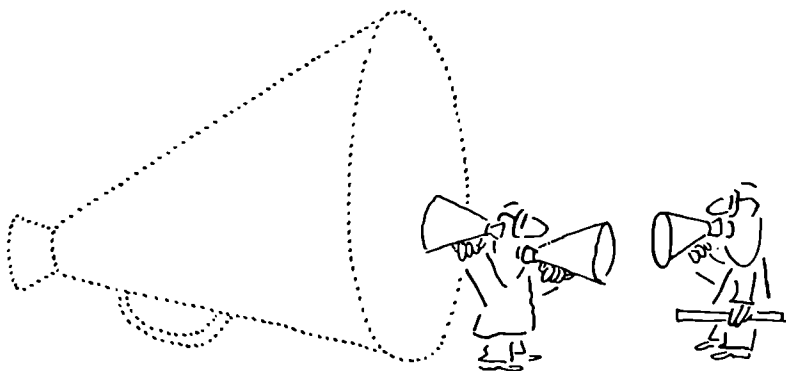
*Joy*

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;  
for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.



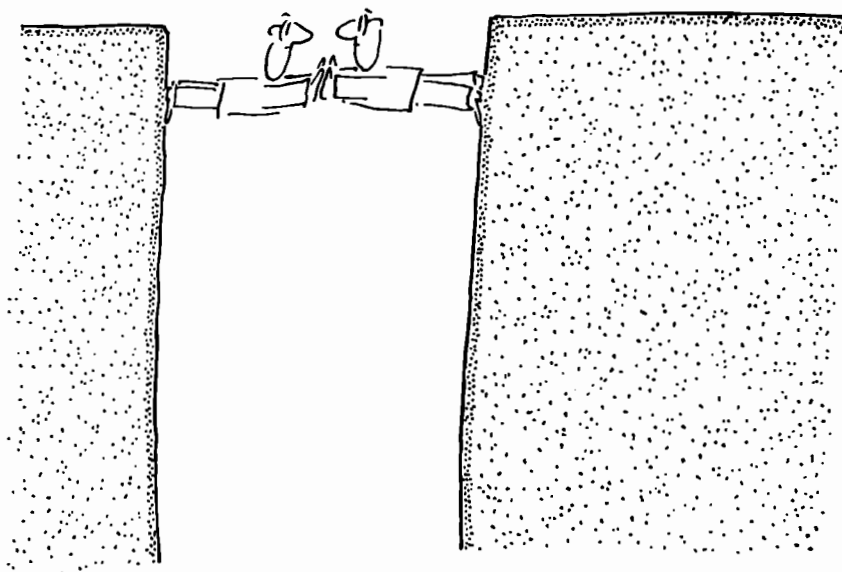
**Silent  
correspondence**

- <sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:  
If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and  
not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.  
It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.
- <sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the LORD.
- <sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand  
of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp  
of the ruthless.



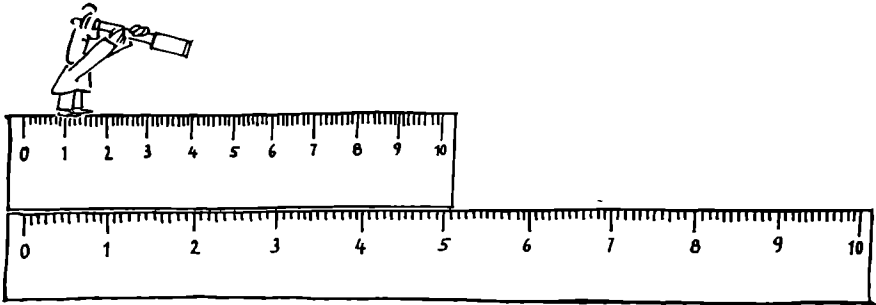
**Human  
strength**

<sup>5</sup>Thus says the LORD:  
Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.  
<sup>6</sup>They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.  
They shall live in the parched  
places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.



**Immeasurable**

<sup>23</sup>Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup>Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD.

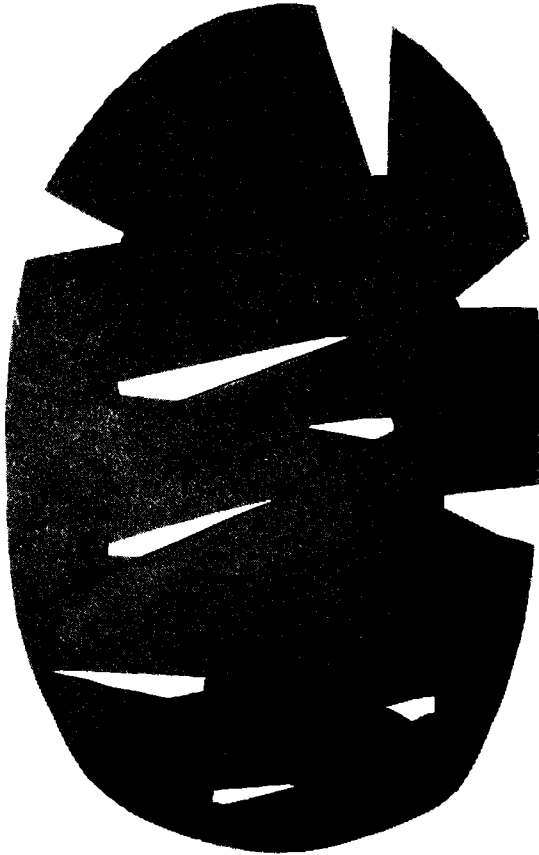


<sup>29</sup>Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and  
like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?



***Search and  
find***

<sup>12</sup>Then when you call upon me and come  
and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup>When you  
search for me, you will find me; if you seek  
me with all your heart . . . .



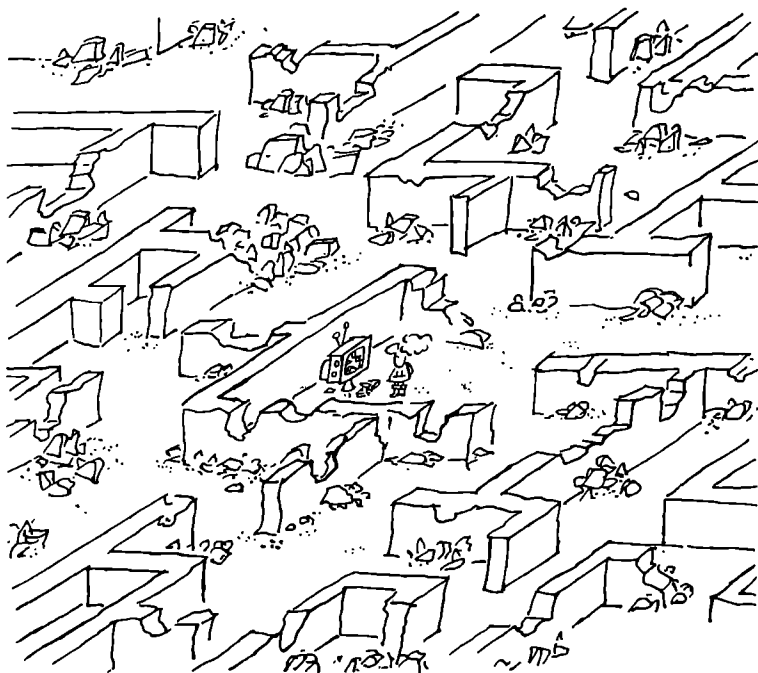


**Shattered  
hammer**

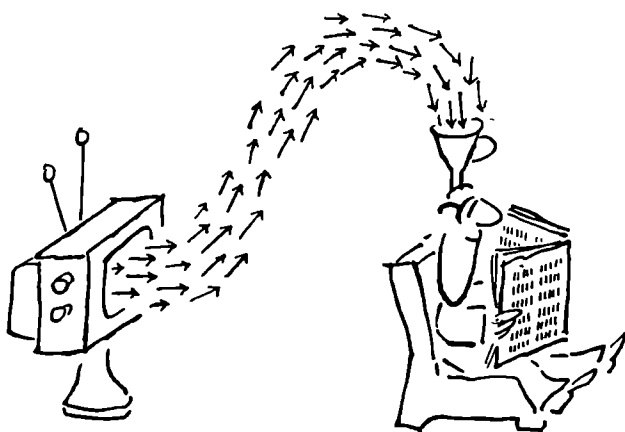
<sup>23</sup>How the hammer of the whole earth  
is cut down and broken!

How Babylon has become  
a horror among the nations!

<sup>24</sup>You set a snare for yourself and  
you were caught, O Babylon,  
but you did not know it;  
you were discovered and seized,  
because you challenged the Lord.



<sup>14</sup>Your prophets have seen for you  
false and deceptive visions;  
they have not exposed your iniquity  
to restore your fortunes,  
but have seen oracles for you  
that are false and misleading.



<sup>22</sup>The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases  
his mercies never come to an end;

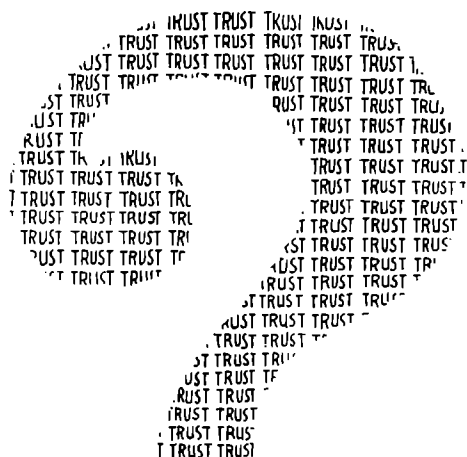
<sup>23</sup>they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

<sup>24</sup>"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in him."



**Why?**

- <sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, reign forever;  
your throne endures to all generations.  
<sup>20</sup>Why have you forgotten us completely?  
Why have you forsaken us these  
many days?  
<sup>21</sup>Restore us to yourself, O LORD,  
that we may be restored;  
renew our days as of old—  
<sup>22</sup>unless you have utterly rejected us,  
and are angry with us beyond measure.



TRUST TRUST  
TRUST TRUST  
TRUST TRUST  
TRUST TRUST  
TRUST TRUST  
TRUST TRUST

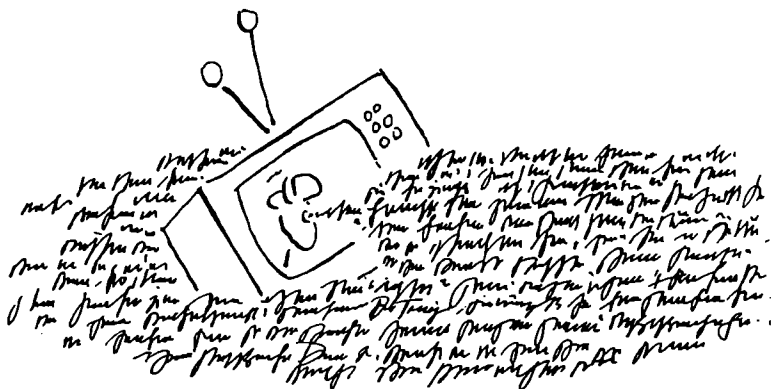
**Guardian and Shepherd**

<sup>17</sup>Mortal, I have made you a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>18</sup>If I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die," and you give them no warning, or speak to warn the wicked from their wicked way, in order to save their life, those wicked persons shall die for their iniquity; but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>19</sup>But if you warn the wicked, and they do not turn from their wickedness, or from their wicked way, they shall die for their iniquity; but you will have saved your life.



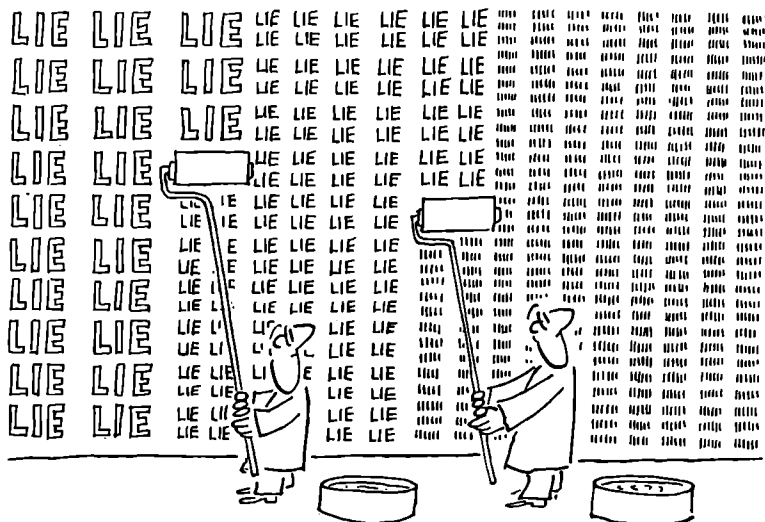
**End of the  
false prophets**

**13** The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>Mortal, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who are prophesying; say to those who prophesy out of their own imagination: "Hear the word of the LORD!" <sup>3</sup>Thus says the Lord God, Alas for the senseless prophets who follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! <sup>4</sup>Your prophets have been like jackals among ruins, O Israel. <sup>5</sup>You have not gone up into the breaches, or repaired a wall for the house of Israel, so that it might stand in battle on the day of the LORD. <sup>6</sup>They have envisioned falsehood and lying divination; they say, "Says the LORD," when the LORD has not sent them, and yet they wait for the fulfillment of their word! <sup>7</sup>Have you not seen a false vision or uttered a lying divination, when you have said, "Says the LORD," even though I did not speak?



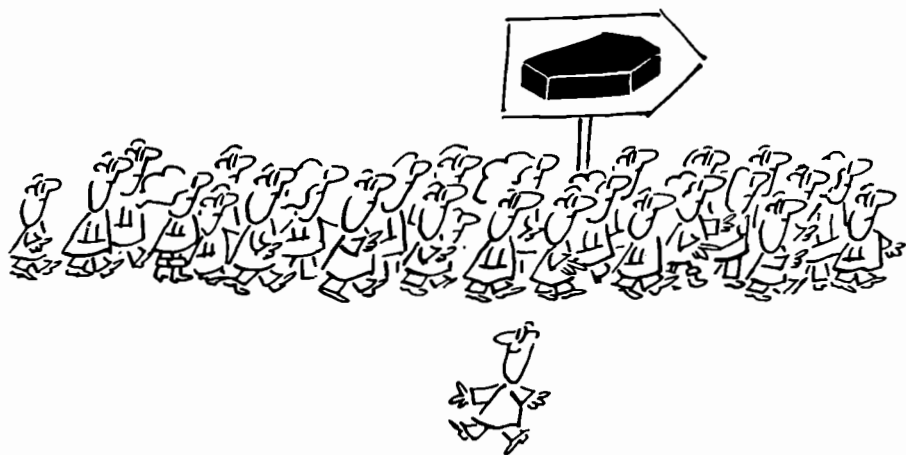
**A change of wallpaper**

<sup>10</sup>Because, in truth, because they have misled my people, saying "Peace," when there is no peace; and because, when the people build a wall, these prophets smear whitewash on it. <sup>11</sup>Say to those who smear whitewash on it that it shall fall. There will be a deluge of rain, great hailstones will fall, and a stormy wind will break out. <sup>12</sup>When the wall falls, will it not be said to you "Where is the whitewash you smeared on it?"



**Back to  
the source**

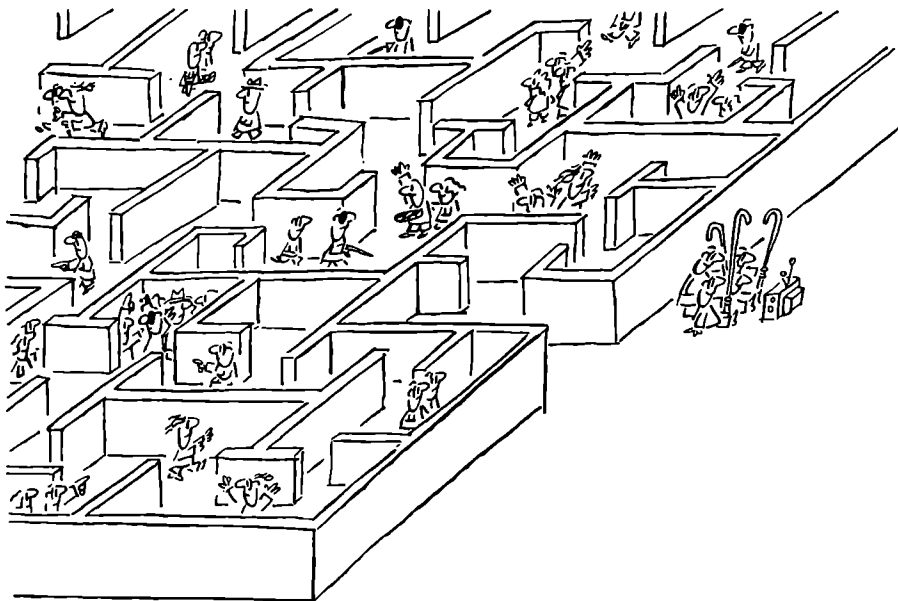
<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.





**False  
shepherds**

**34** The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel: prophesy, and say to them—to the shepherds: Thus says the Lord God: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? <sup>3</sup>You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. <sup>4</sup>You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. . . . <sup>6</sup>My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them.

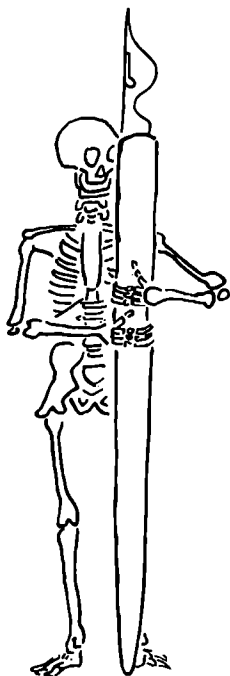


<sup>26</sup>A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. <sup>28</sup>Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.



***Awakening  
from mortal  
sleep***

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.



***Inventory***

**5** King Belshazzar made a great festival for a thousand of his lords, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.

<sup>2</sup>Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar commanded that they bring in the vessels of gold and silver that his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. <sup>3</sup>So they brought in the vessels of gold and silver that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. <sup>4</sup>They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

<sup>5</sup>Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the wall of the royal palace, next to the lampstand. The king was watching the hand as it wrote. <sup>6</sup>Then the king's face turned pale, and his thoughts terrified him. His limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together. <sup>7</sup>The king cried aloud to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the diviners; and the king said to the wise men of Babylon, "Whoever can read this writing and tell me its interpretation shall be clothed in purple, have a chain of gold around his neck, and rank third in the kingdom." <sup>8</sup>Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king the interpretation. <sup>9</sup>Then King Belshazzar became greatly terrified and his face turned pale, and his lords were perplexed.

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<sup>10</sup>The queen, when she heard the discussion of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall. The queen said, "O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts terrify you or your face grow pale. <sup>11</sup>There is a man in your kingdom who is endowed with a spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father he was found to have enlightenment, understanding, and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and diviners, <sup>12</sup>because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation."

<sup>13</sup>Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king said to Daniel, "So you are Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah? . . ."

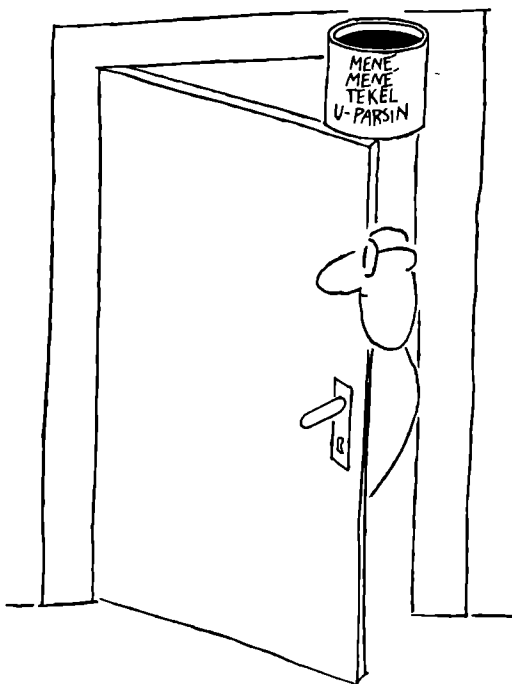
<sup>17</sup>Then Daniel answered in the presence of the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, or give your rewards to someone else! Nevertheless I will read the writing to the king and let him know the interpretation.

<sup>23</sup>"You have exalted yourself against the LORD of heaven! The vessels of his temple have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them. You have praised the gods of silver and gold, of

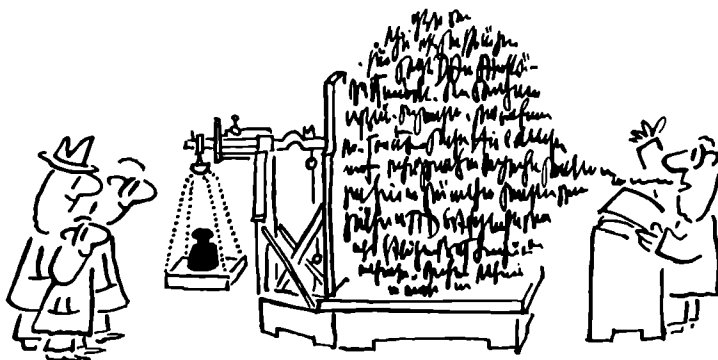
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bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know; but the God in whose power is your very breath, and to whom belong all your ways, you have not honored.

<sup>24</sup>"So from his presence the hand was sent and this writing was inscribed."

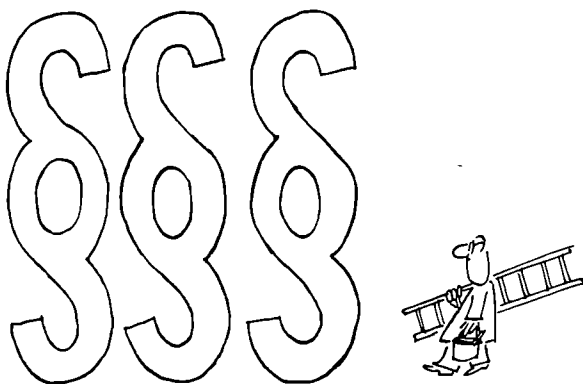


27“TEKEL, you have been weighed on the scales and found wanting . . . .”



**Save our souls**

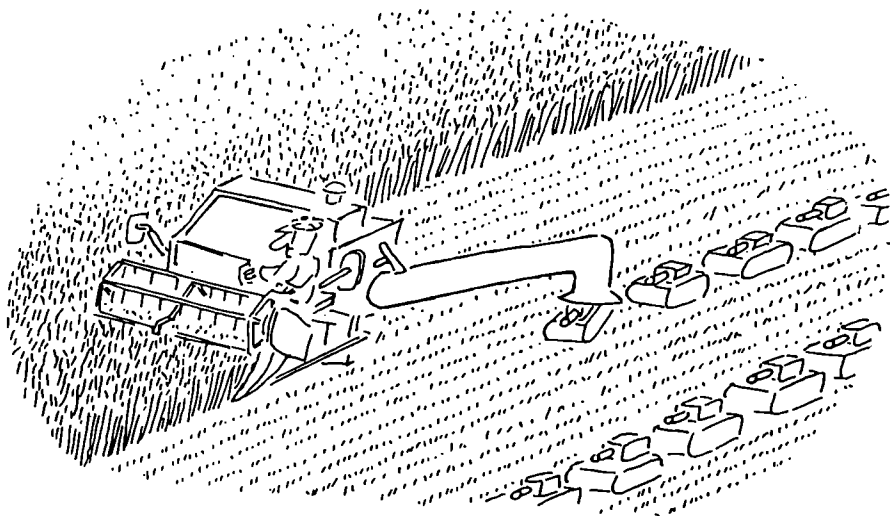
<sup>18</sup>“Incline your ear, O my God, and hear.  
Open your eyes and look at our desolation  
and the city that bears your name. We do  
not present our supplication before you on  
the ground of our righteousness, but on the  
ground of your great mercies.”





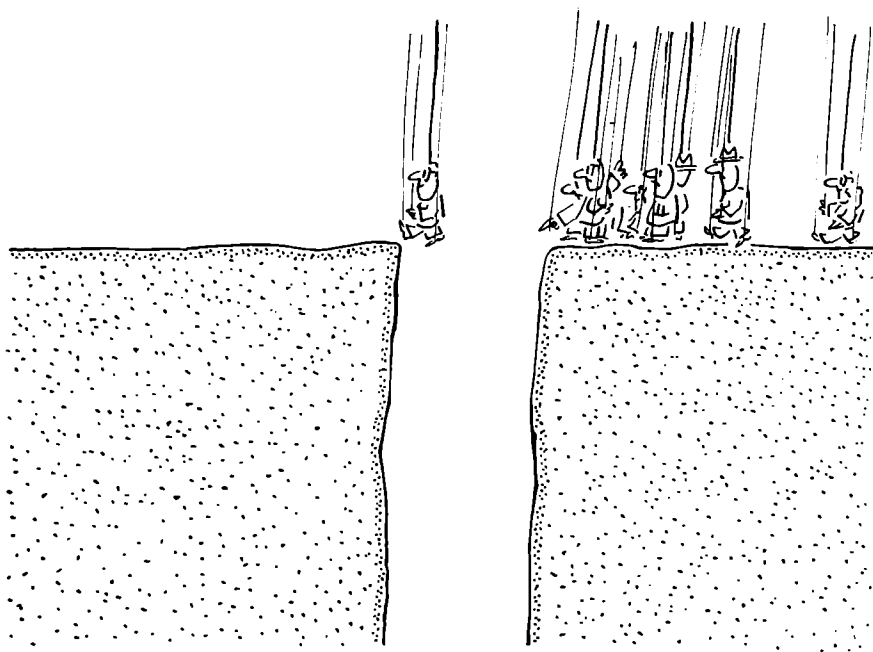
***The storm  
is coming***

<sup>7</sup>For they sow the wind,  
and they shall reap the whirlwind.  
The standing grain has no heads,  
it shall yield no meal;  
if it were to yield,  
foreigners would devour it.



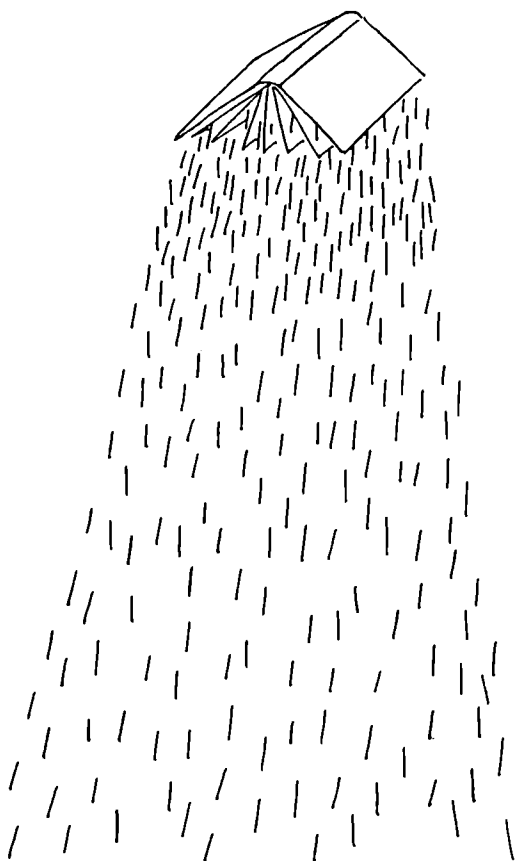
**First  
steps**

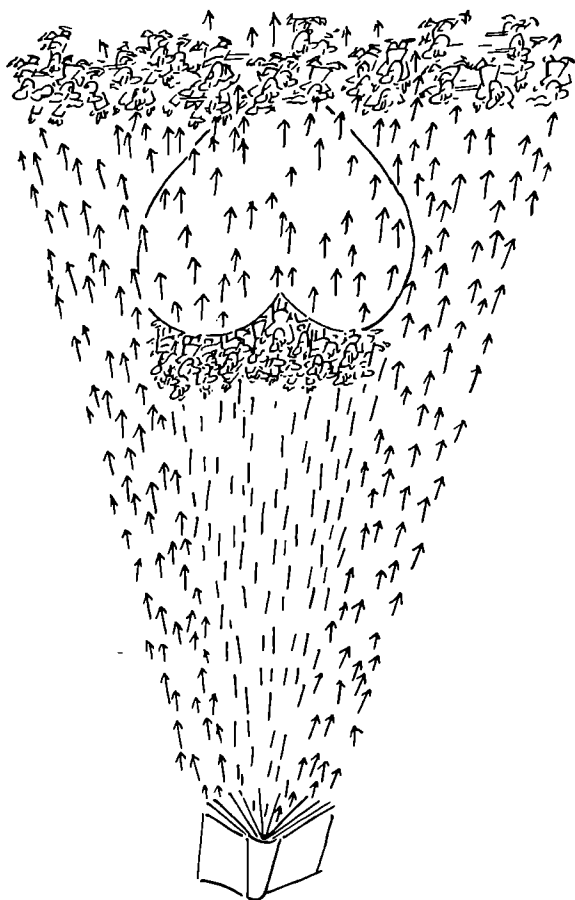
<sup>3</sup>Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,  
I took them up in my arms;  
but they did not know that I healed them.  
<sup>4</sup>I led them with cords of human kindness,  
with bands of love.  
I was to them like those  
who lift infants to their cheeks.  
I bent down to them and fed them.



**Spring rain**

**3** For then, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat, and I will enter into judgment with them there, on account of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations.





For you have taken my silver and my gold,  
and have carried my rich treasures into your  
temples.

**Refuge**

***False hope***

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

<sup>19</sup> as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested

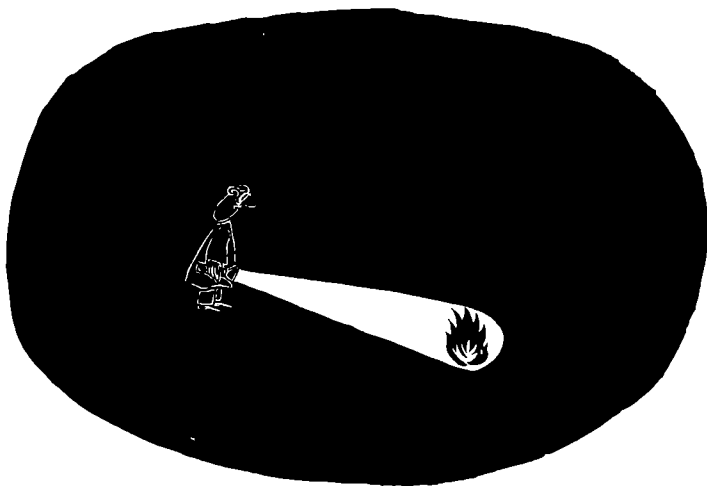
a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD

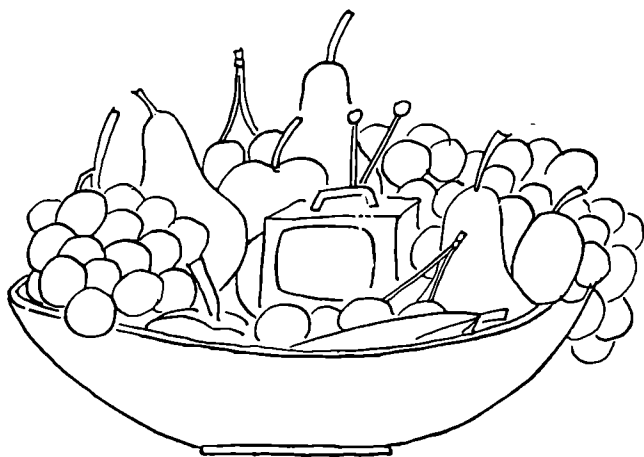
darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

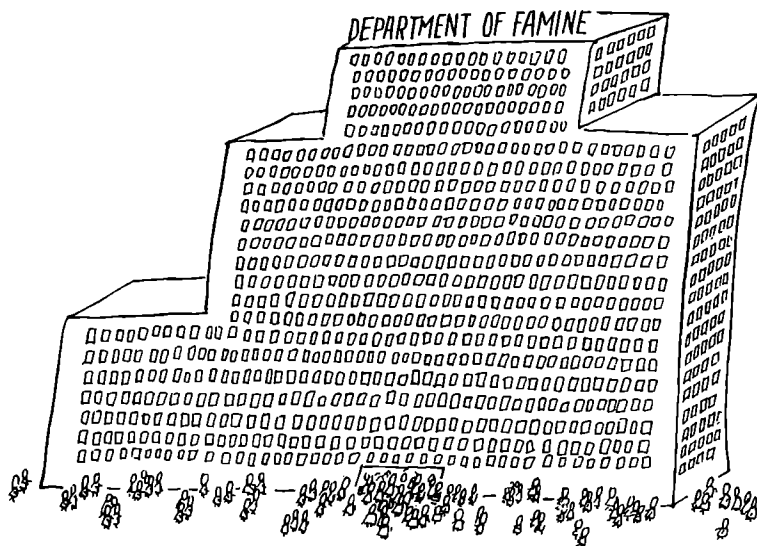


***Perishable  
fruit***

**8** This is what the Lord God showed me—  
a basket of summer fruit. <sup>2</sup>He said,  
“Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A  
basket of summer fruit.” Then the Lord said  
to me,  
“The end has come upon my people  
Israel;  
I will never again pass them by.”

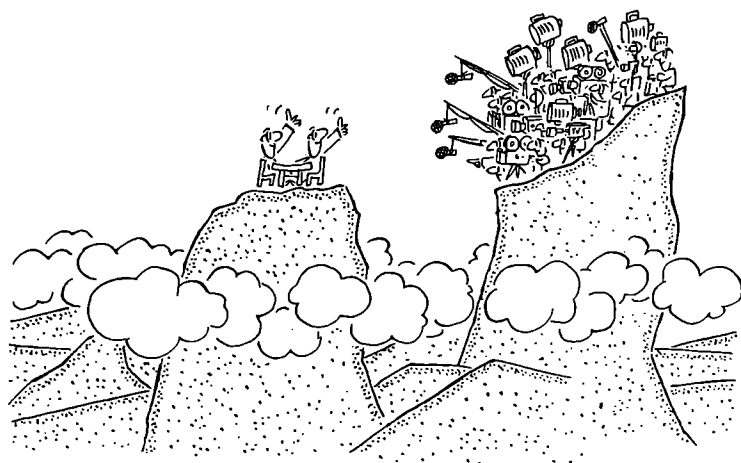


<sup>11</sup>The time is surely coming, says  
the Lord God,  
when I will send a famine on the land;  
not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water,  
but of hearing the words of the LORD.  
<sup>12</sup>They shall wander from sea to sea,  
and from north to east;  
they shall run to and fro, seeking  
the word of the LORD,  
but they shall not find it.



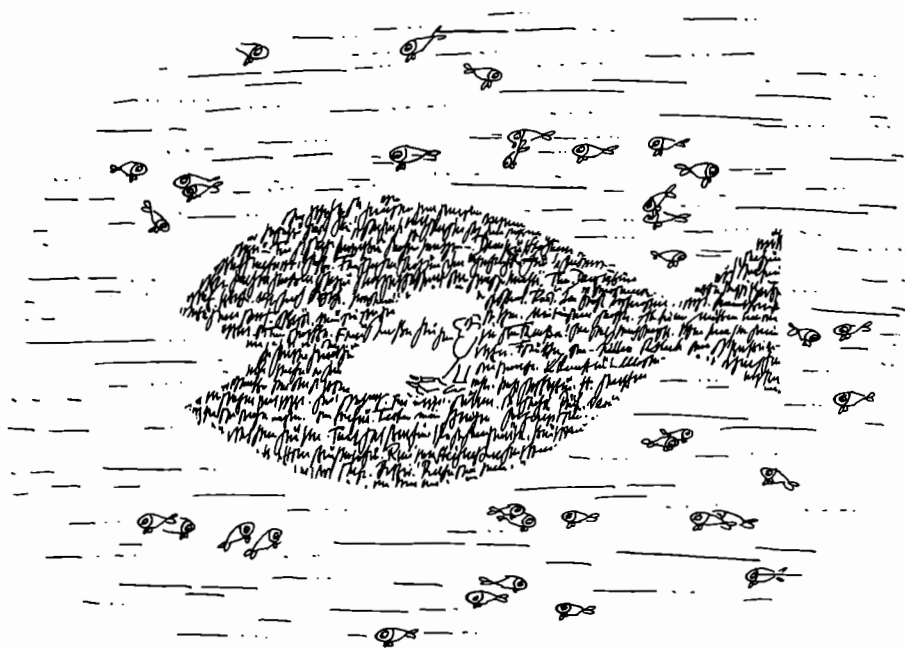
<sup>3</sup>Your proud heart has deceived you,  
you that live in the clefts of the rock,  
whose dwelling is in the heights.  
You say in your heart,  
"Who will bring me down to the ground?"  
<sup>4</sup>Though you soar aloft like the eagle,  
though your nest is set among the stars,  
from there I will bring you down,  
says the LORD.





**Jonah's  
Prayer**

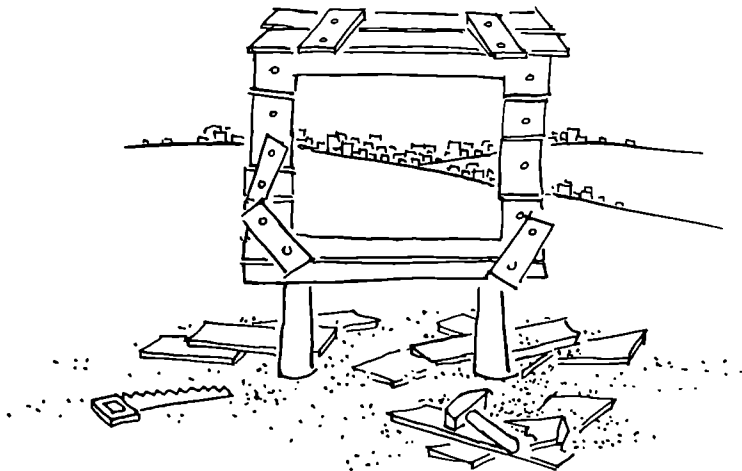
**2** Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God  
from the belly of the fish, <sup>2</sup>saying,  
"I called to the LORD out of my distress,  
and he answered me;  
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,  
and you heard my voice.  
<sup>3</sup>You cast me into the deep,  
into the heart of the seas,  
and the flood surrounded me;  
all your waves and your billows  
passed over me.  
<sup>4</sup>Then I said, 'I am driven away  
from your sight;  
how shall I look again  
upon your holy temple?'  
<sup>5</sup>The waters closed in over me;  
the deep surrounded me;  
weeds were wrapped around my head  
<sup>6</sup> at the roots of the mountains.  
I went down to the land  
whose bars closed upon me forever;  
yet you brought up my life from the Pit,  
O LORD my God.  
<sup>7</sup>As my life was ebbing away,  
I remembered the LORD;  
and my prayer came to you,  
into your holy temple.  
<sup>8</sup>Those who worship vain idols  
forsake their true loyalty.  
<sup>9</sup>But I with the voice of thanksgiving  
will sacrifice to you;  
what I have vowed I will pay.  
Deliverance belongs to the LORD!"  
<sup>10</sup>Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it  
spewed Jonah out upon the dry land.



**Change of  
program**

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

**4** But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.



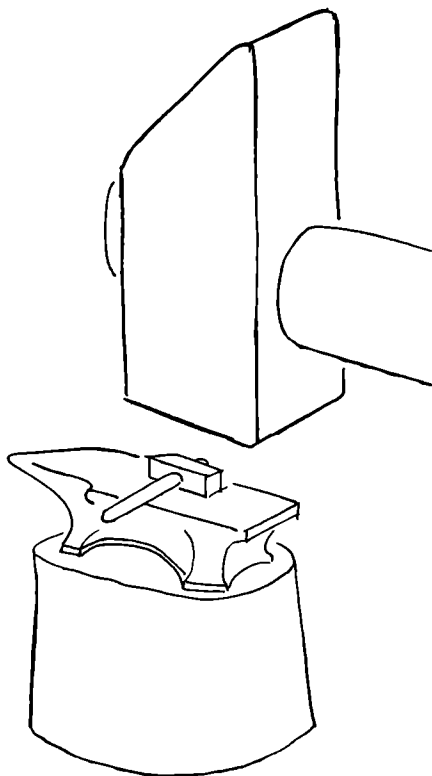
**Purification**

<sup>9</sup>Your hand shall be lifted up over  
your adversaries,  
and all your enemies shall be cut off.

<sup>10</sup>In that day, says the LORD,  
I will cut off your horses from among you  
and will destroy your chariots;

<sup>11</sup>and I will cut off the cities of your land  
and throw down all your strongholds;

<sup>12</sup>and I will cut off sorceries from your hand,  
and you shall have no more soothsayers.



**Vain  
effort**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD cries to the city  
(it is sound wisdom to fear your name):

Hear, O tribe and assembly of the city! . . .

<sup>12</sup>Your wealthy are full of violence;

your inhabitants speak lies,  
with tongues of deceit in their mouths.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore I have begun to strike you down,  
making you desolate because of your sins.

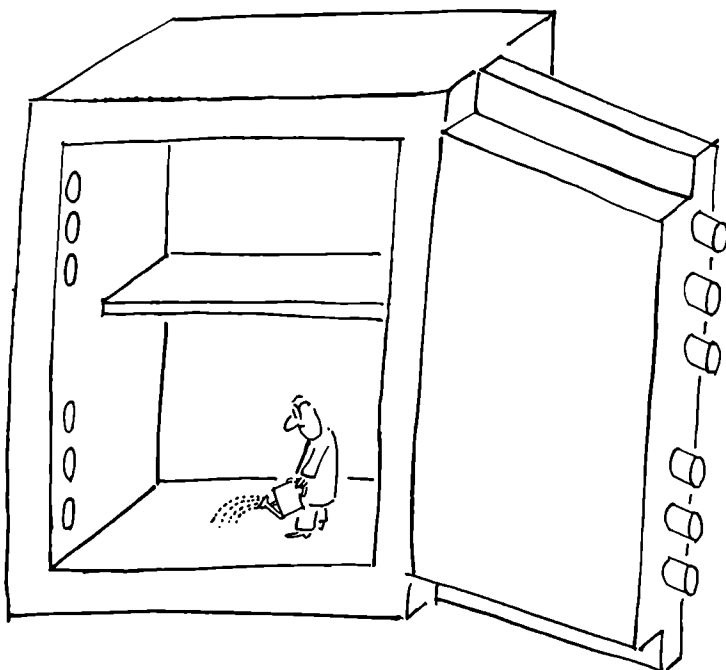
<sup>14</sup>You shall eat, but not be satisfied,  
and there shall be a gnawing  
hunger within you;

you shall put away, but not save,  
and what you save, I will hand  
over to the sword.

<sup>15</sup>You shall sow, but not reap;

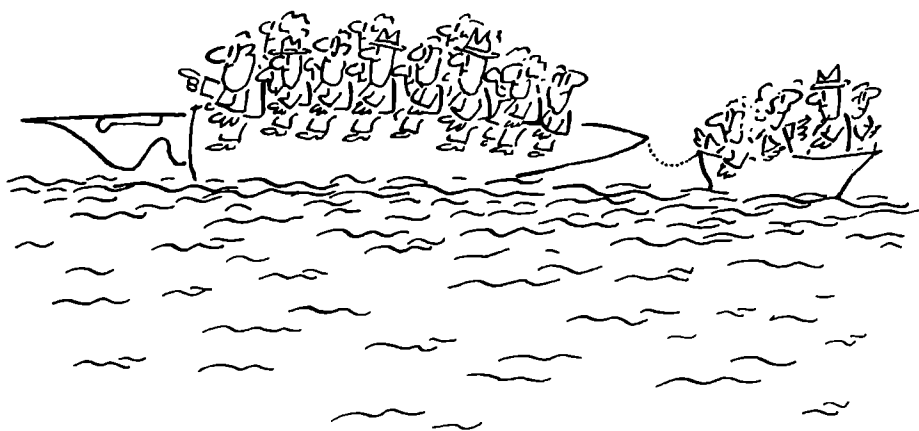
you shall tread olives, but not  
anoint yourselves with oil;

you shall tread grapes, but not drink wine.



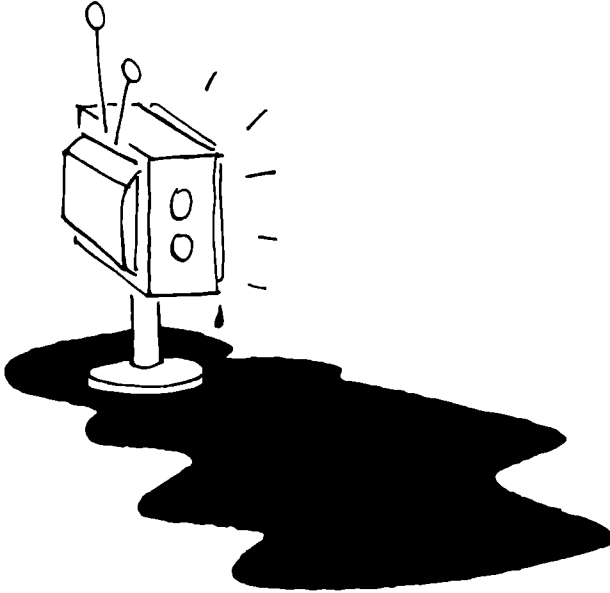
**Appointment**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD is good,  
a stronghold in a day of trouble;  
he protects those who take refuge in him,  
<sup>8</sup> even in a rushing flood.  
He will make a full end of his adversaries,  
and will pursue his enemies into darkness.



**Feeling low**

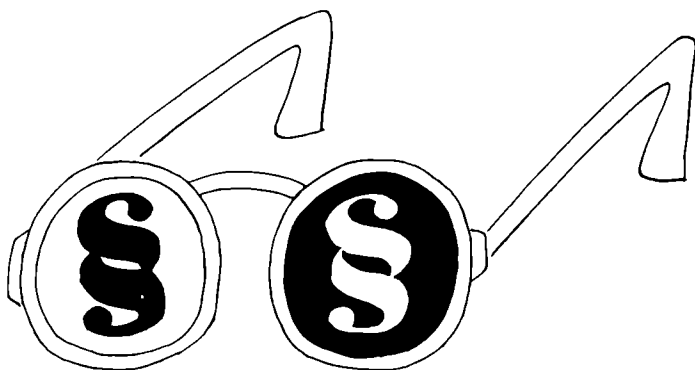
**3** Ah! City of bloodshed,  
utterly deceitful, full of booty—  
no end to the plunder!  
<sup>2</sup>The crack of whip and rumble of wheel,  
galloping horse and bounding chariot!  
<sup>3</sup>Horsemen charging,  
flashing sword and glittering spear,  
piles of dead,  
heaps of corpses,  
dead bodies without end—  
they stumble over the bodies!  
<sup>4</sup>Because of the countless  
debaucheries of the prostitute,  
gracefully alluring, mistress of sorcery,  
who enslaves nations through her  
debaucheries,  
and peoples through her sorcery . . . .





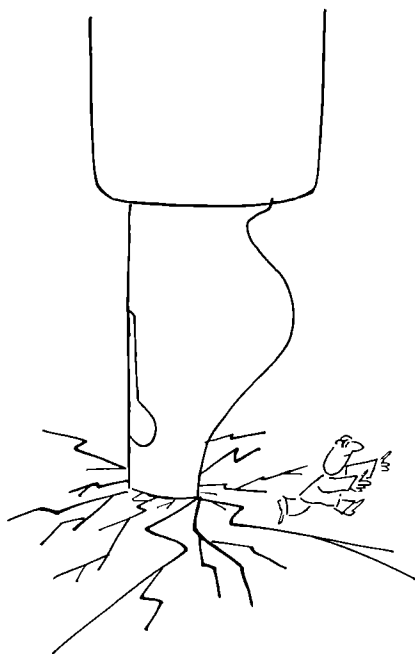
**Two points  
of view?**

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not listen?  
Or cry to you "Violence!"  
and you will not save?  
<sup>3</sup>Why do you make me see wrongdoing  
and look at trouble?  
Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.  
<sup>4</sup>So the law becomes slack  
and justice never prevails.  
The wicked surround the righteous—  
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.



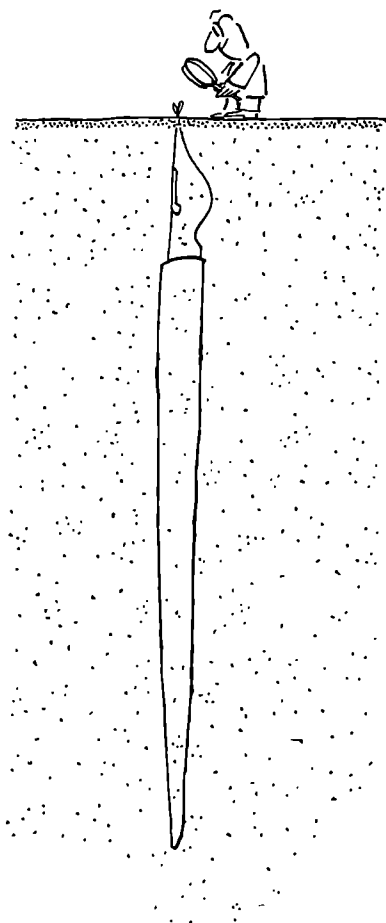
***The coming  
of God***

<sup>3</sup>God came from Teman,  
the Holy One from Mount  
Paran. *Selah*  
His glory covered the heavens,  
and the earth was full of his praise.  
<sup>4</sup>The brightness was like the sun;  
rays came forth from his hand,  
where his power lay hidden.  
<sup>5</sup>Before him went pestilence,  
and plague followed close behind.  
<sup>6</sup>He stopped and shook the earth;  
he looked and made the nations tremble.  
The eternal mountains were shattered;  
along his ancient pathways  
the everlasting hills sank low.



***Certainty  
of life***

<sup>17</sup>Though the fig tree does not blossom,  
and no fruit is on the vines;  
though the produce of the olive fails  
and the fields yield no food;  
though the flock is cut off from the fold  
and there is no herd in the stalls,  
<sup>18</sup>yet I will rejoice in the Lord;  
I will exult in the God of my salvation.

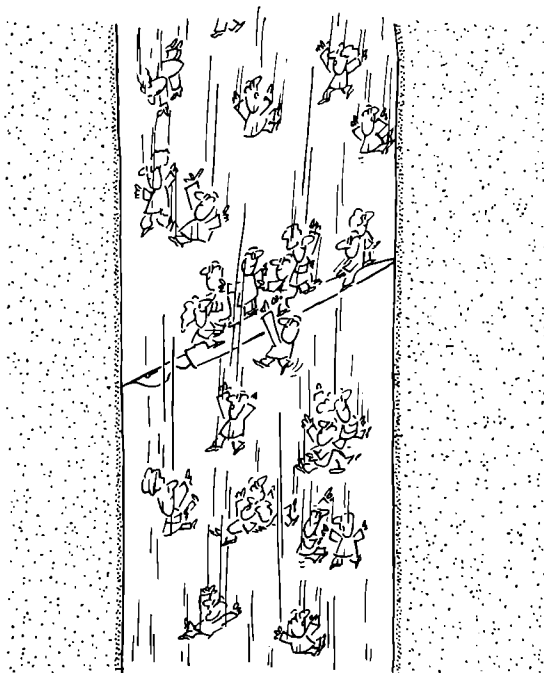


**Who will  
remain?**

<sup>11</sup>On that day you shall not be put to shame  
because of all the deeds by  
which you have rebelled against me;  
for then I will remove from your midst  
your proudly exultant ones,  
and you shall no longer be haughty  
in my holy mountain.

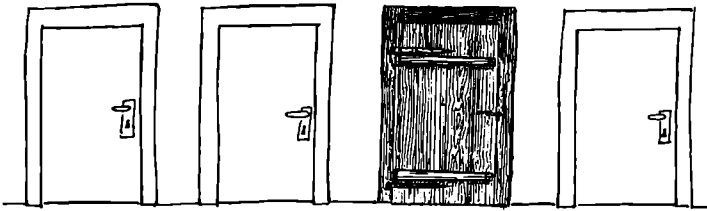
<sup>12</sup>For I will leave in the midst of you  
a people humble and lowly.  
They shall seek refuge in the name  
of the LORD—

<sup>13</sup> the remnant of Israel;  
they shall do no wrong  
and utter no lies,  
nor shall a deceitful tongue  
be found in their mouths.  
Then they will pasture and lie down,  
and no one shall make them afraid.



***The doors  
of the  
temple***

<sup>2</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD's house. <sup>3</sup>Then the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai, saying: <sup>4</sup>Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?

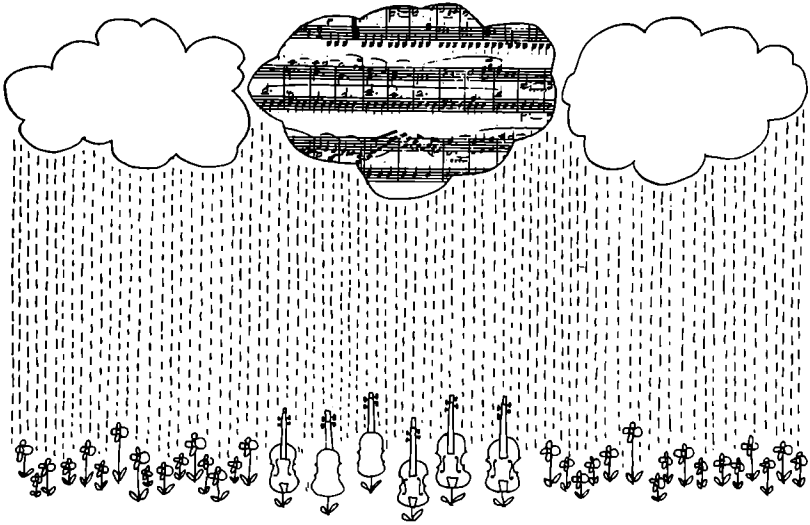


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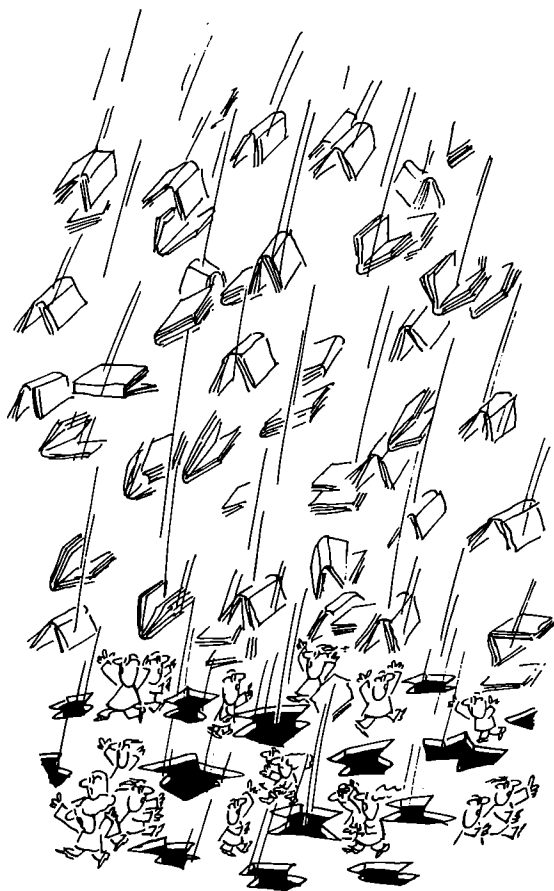
## ZECHARIAH 2:10

***The reason  
for proper joy***

<sup>10</sup>Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I  
will come and dwell in your midst, says the  
LORD.



**5** Again I looked up and saw a flying scroll. <sup>2</sup>And he said to me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll; its length is twenty cubits, and its width ten cubits." <sup>3</sup>Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole land; for everyone who steals shall be cut off according to the writing on one side, and everyone who swears falsely shall be cut off according to the writing on the other side.



***The future***

<sup>4</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. <sup>5</sup>And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. <sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the LORD of hosts? <sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; <sup>8</sup>and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.





**Rain of  
salvation**

**10** Ask rain from the LORD  
in the season of the spring rain,  
from the LORD who makes the storm clouds,  
who gives showers of rain to you,  
the vegetation in the field to everyone.

<sup>2</sup>For the teraphim utter nonsense,  
and the diviners see lies;  
the dreamers tell false dreams,  
and give empty consolation.

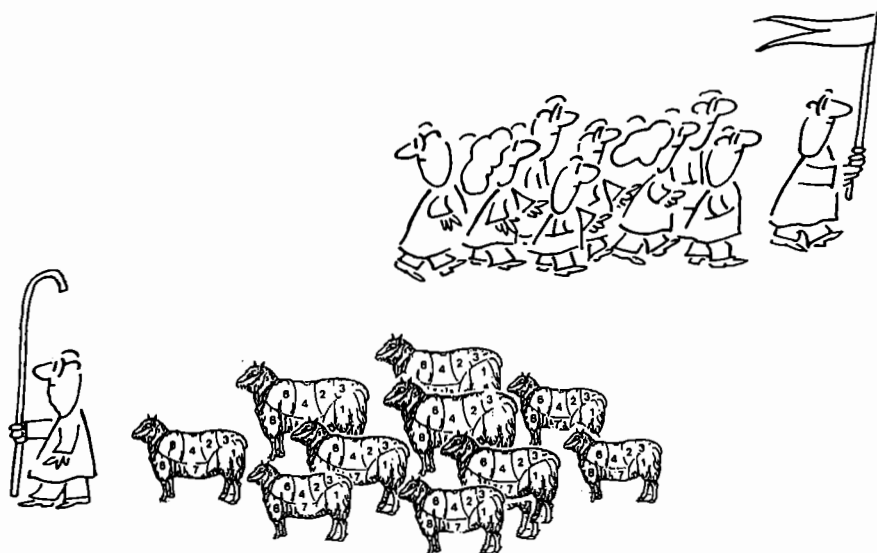
Therefore the people wander like sheep;  
they suffer for lack of a shepherd.



***On the way  
to defeat***

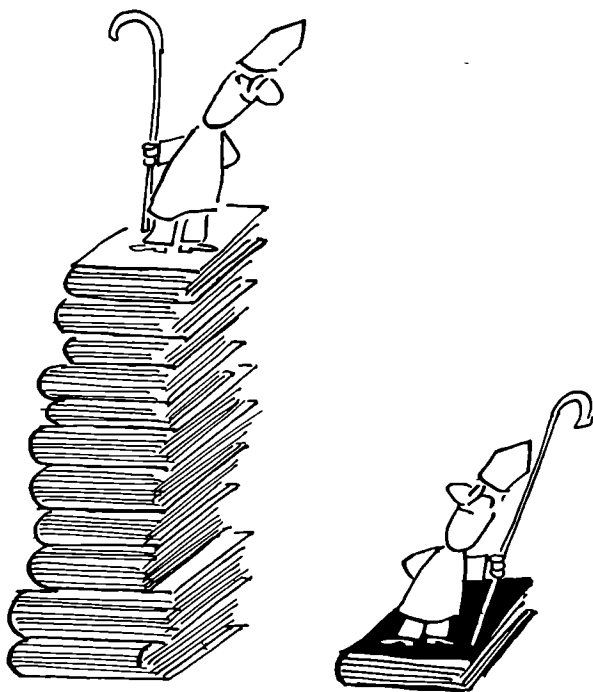
<sup>4</sup>Thus said the LORD my God: Be a shepherd of the flock doomed to slaughter. <sup>5</sup>Those who buy them kill them and go unpunished; and those who sell them say, "Blessed be the LORD, for I have become rich"; and their own shepherds have no pity on them. <sup>6</sup>For I will no longer have pity on the inhabitants of the earth, says the LORD. I will cause them, every one, to fall each into the hand of a neighbor, and each into the hand of the king; and they shall devastate the earth, and I will deliver no one from their hand.

<sup>7</sup>So, on behalf of the sheep merchants, I became the shepherd of the flock doomed to slaughter. I took two staffs; one I named Favor, the other I named Unity, and I tended the sheep. <sup>8</sup>In one month I disposed of the three shepherds, for I had become impatient with them, and they also detested me. <sup>9</sup>So I said, "I will not be your shepherd. What is to die, let it die; what is to be destroyed, let it be destroyed; and let those that are left devour the flesh of one another!" <sup>10</sup>I took my staff Favor and broke it, annulling the covenant that I had made with all the peoples. <sup>11</sup>So it was annulled on that day, and the sheep merchants, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the LORD.



***Threat to the  
priesthood***

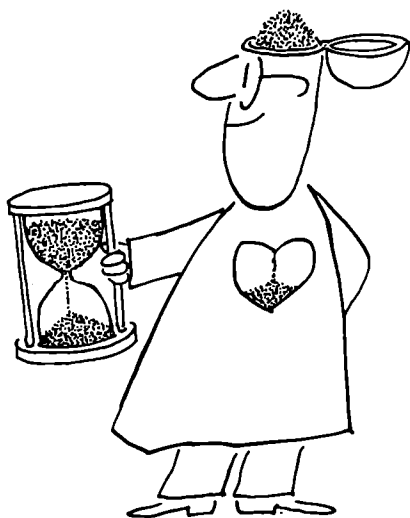
<sup>a</sup>But you have turned aside from the way;  
you have caused many to stumble by your  
instruction; you have corrupted the covenant  
of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, <sup>a</sup>and so I  
make you despised and abased before all the  
people, inasmuch as you have not kept my  
ways but have shown partiality in your  
instruction.



***It's soon  
to come***

<sup>4</sup>Remember the teaching of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup>Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.





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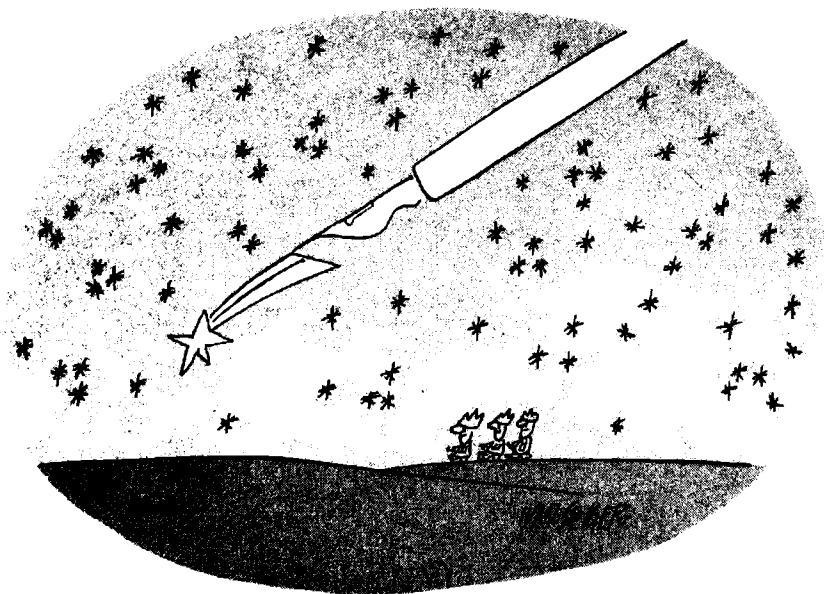
# NEW TESTAMENT



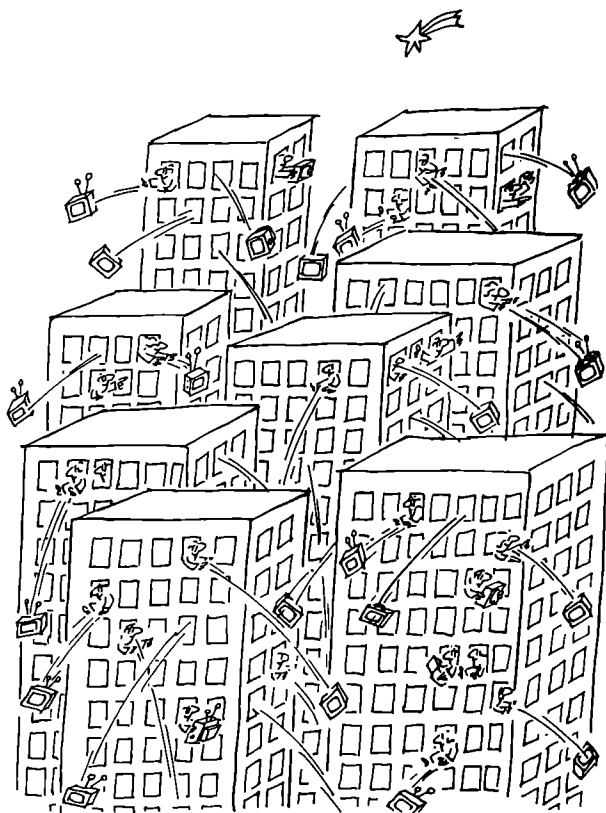


**New star**

**2** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

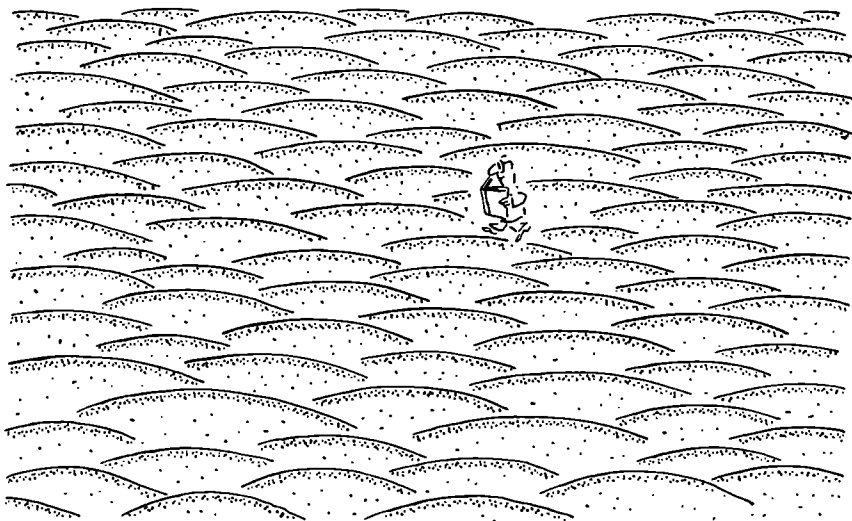


<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.



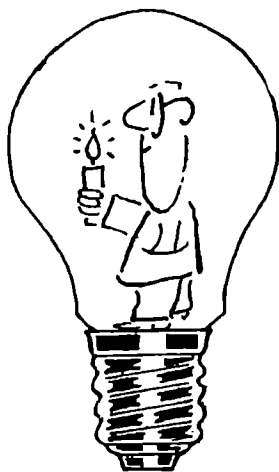
**Trust**

**4** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written,  
'One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes  
from the mouth of God.'"



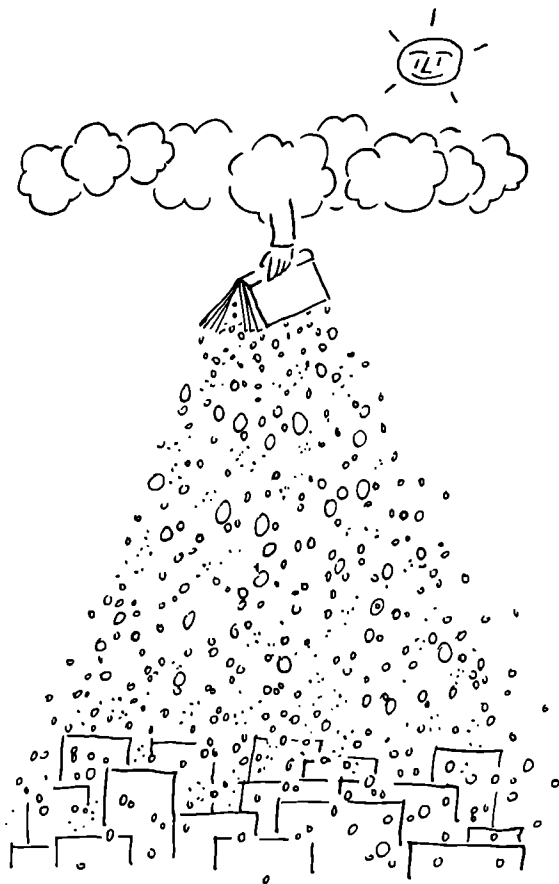
**Source of  
light**

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”



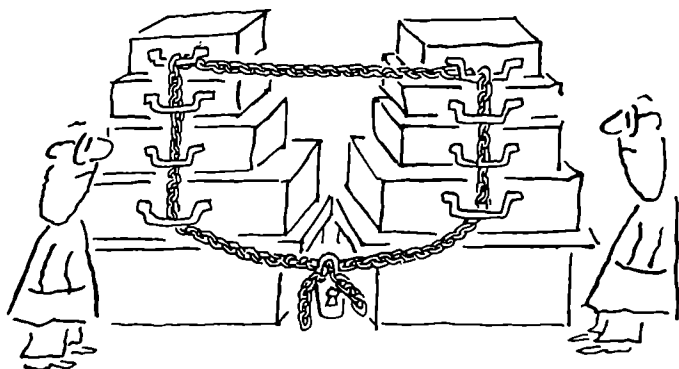
**Love the  
enemy**

<sup>43</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous."

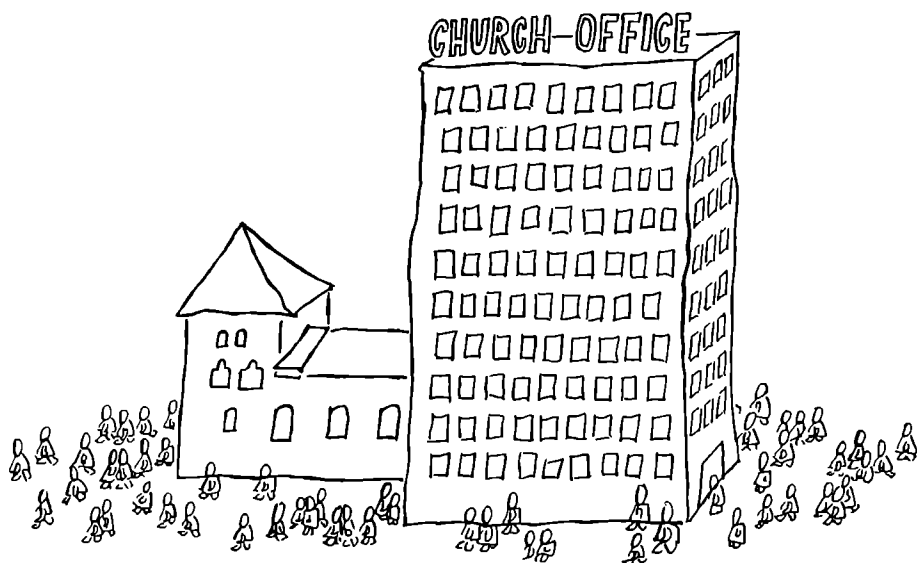


**Earthly  
possessions**

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

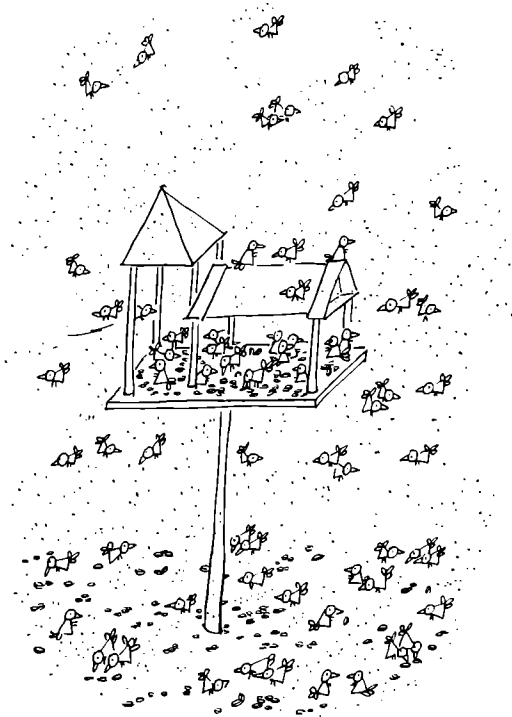


24"No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."



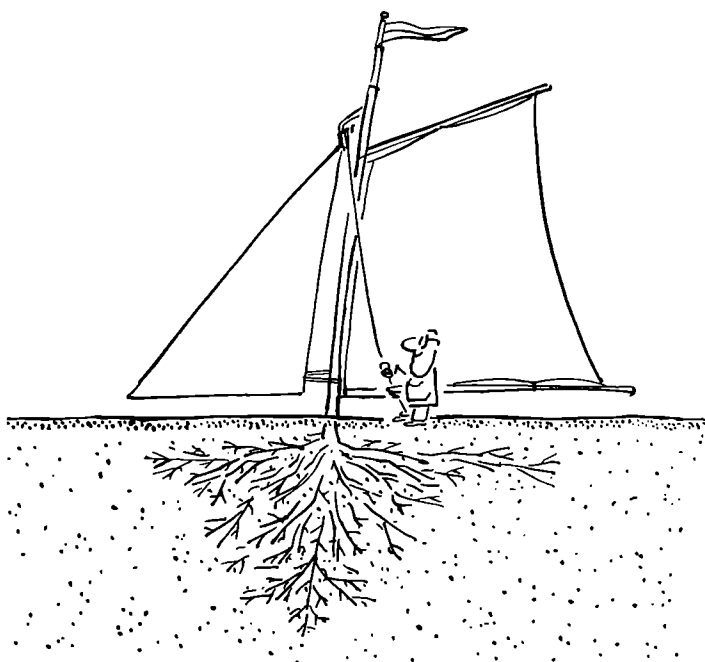
**Worry about  
the things  
of life**

<sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?”





<sup>33</sup>“Either make the tree good, and its fruit good; or make the tree bad, and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. <sup>34</sup>You brood of vipers! How can you speak good things, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup>The good person brings good things out of a good treasure, and the evil person brings evil things out of an evil treasure.”



36 "I tell you, on the day of judgment you will have to give an account for every careless word you utter; 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."



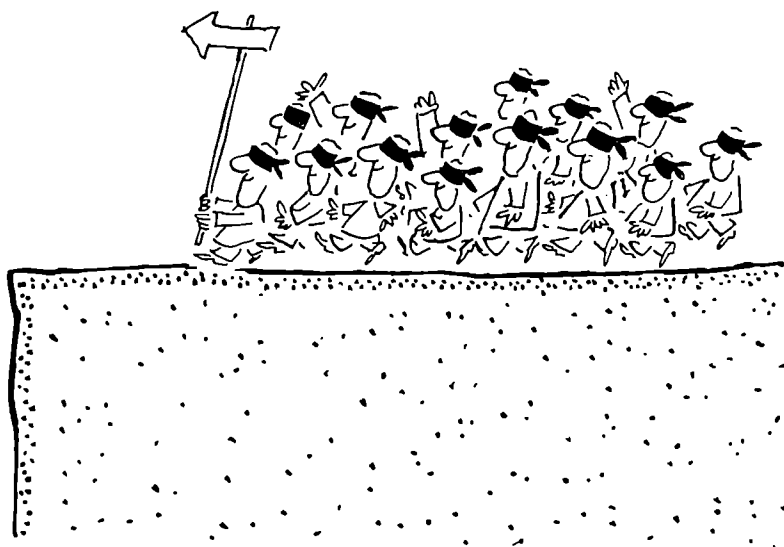
<sup>25</sup>And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

<sup>28</sup>Peter answered him, "LORD, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup>He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "LORD, save me!" <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"



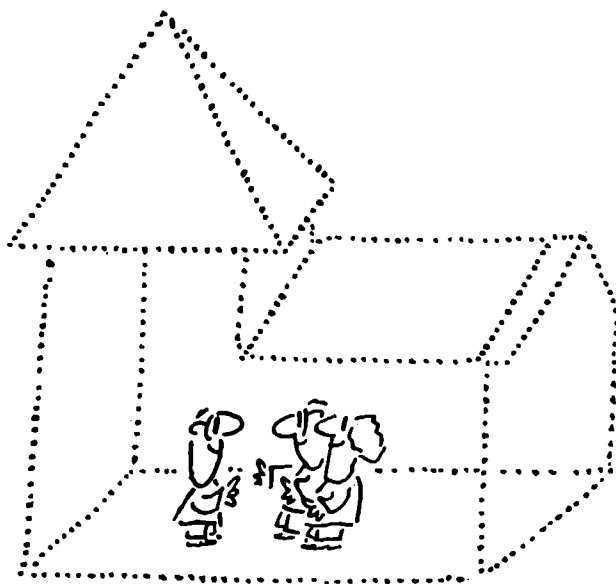
<sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?"

<sup>13</sup>He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit."



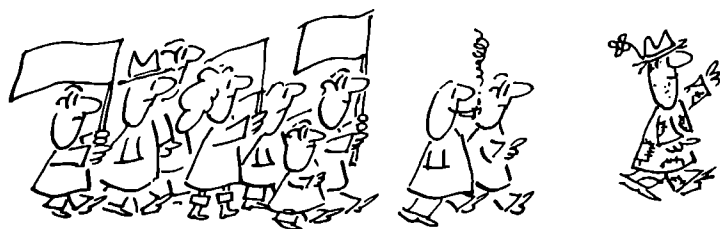
***Prayer in  
community***

<sup>19</sup>“Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”



***The first  
and the last***

**20** “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”



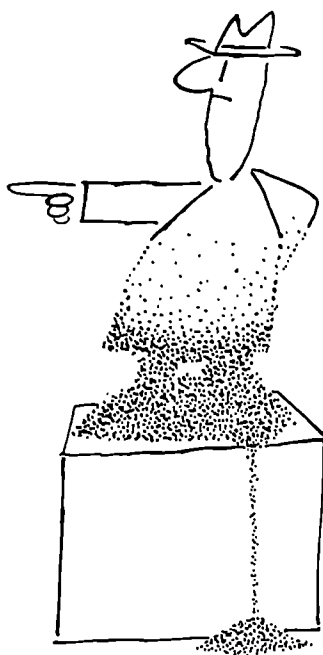
**Leader**

<sup>8</sup>But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students.

<sup>9</sup>And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven.

<sup>10</sup>Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. <sup>11</sup>The greatest among you will be your servant.

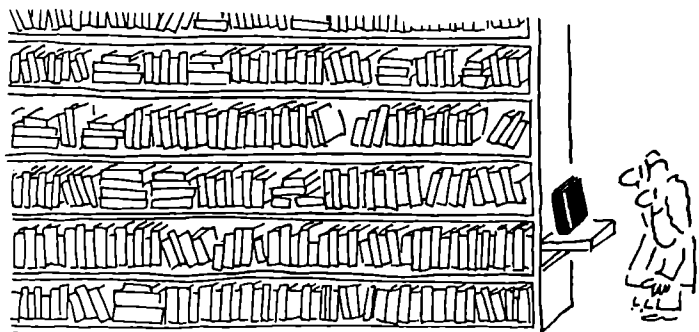
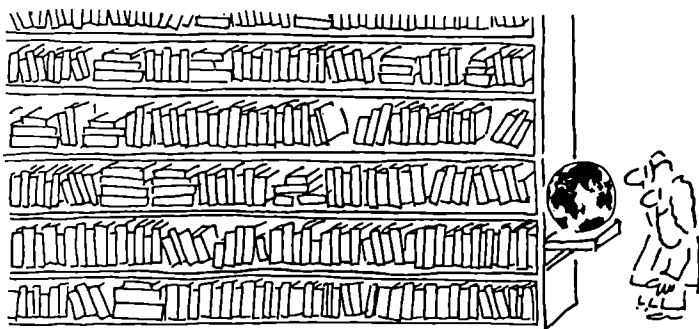
<sup>12</sup>All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.





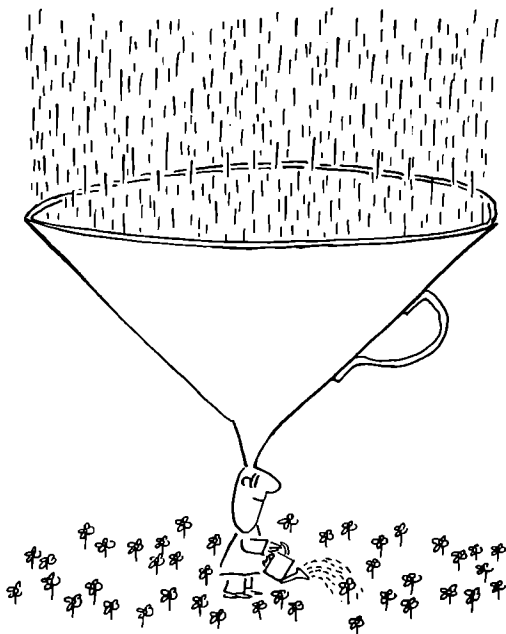
***For what do  
we live?***

<sup>35</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my  
words will not pass away.



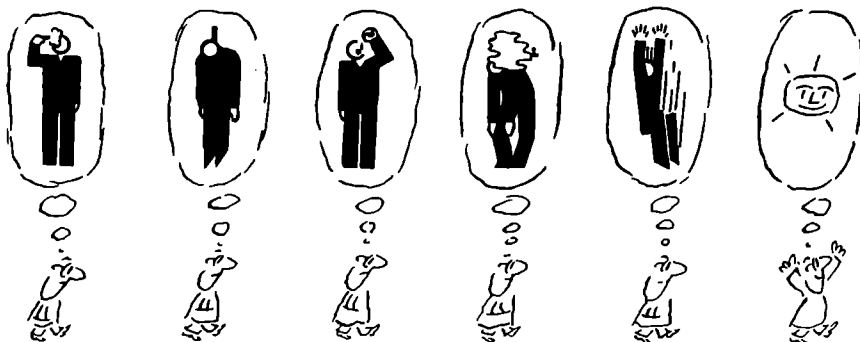
**Preparation**

‘Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ’He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”



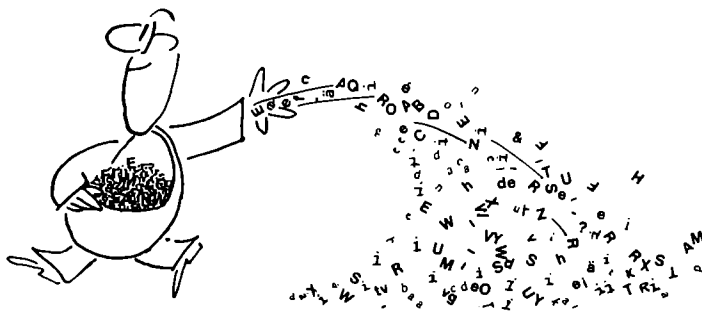
**Calling for  
change**

. . . <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."



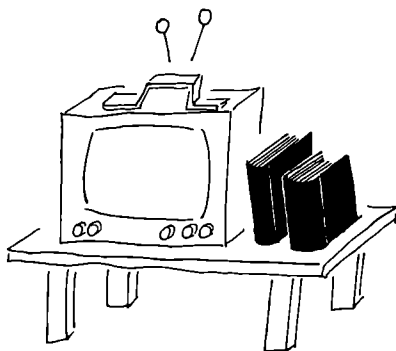
**Sowing**

**4** Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. <sup>2</sup>He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: <sup>3</sup>"Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup>Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. <sup>8</sup>Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundred-fold." <sup>9</sup>And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"



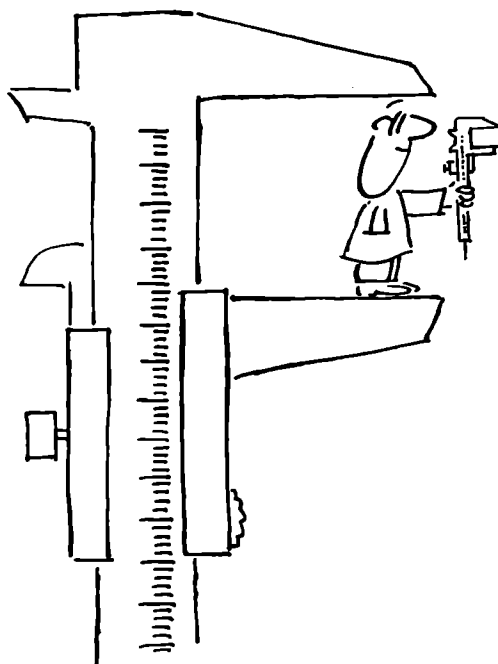
**. . . and  
the harvest**

<sup>14</sup>"The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup>These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. <sup>16</sup>And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup>But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. <sup>18</sup>And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, <sup>19</sup>but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>20</sup>And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundred-fold."

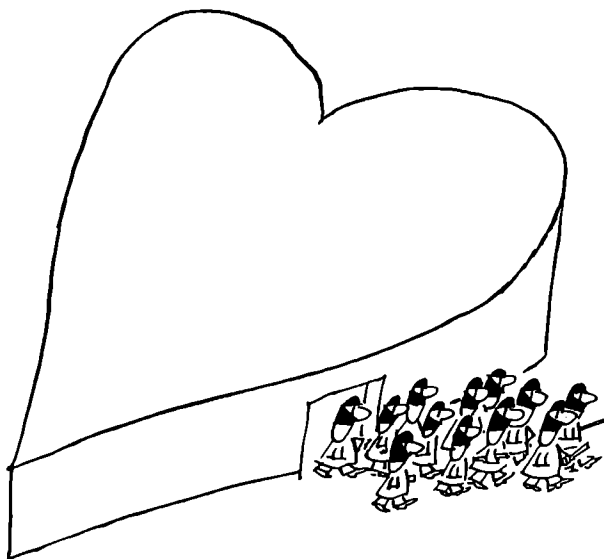


*Scale*

<sup>24</sup>And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you."



<sup>18</sup>He said to them, "Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, <sup>19</sup>since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) <sup>20</sup>And he said, "It is what comes out of a person that defiles. <sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."



<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples,  
and said to them, "If any want to become  
my followers, let them deny themselves and  
take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For  
those who want to save their life will lose it,  
and those who lose their life for my sake,  
and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."





**Following**

<sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?



**Children as  
example**

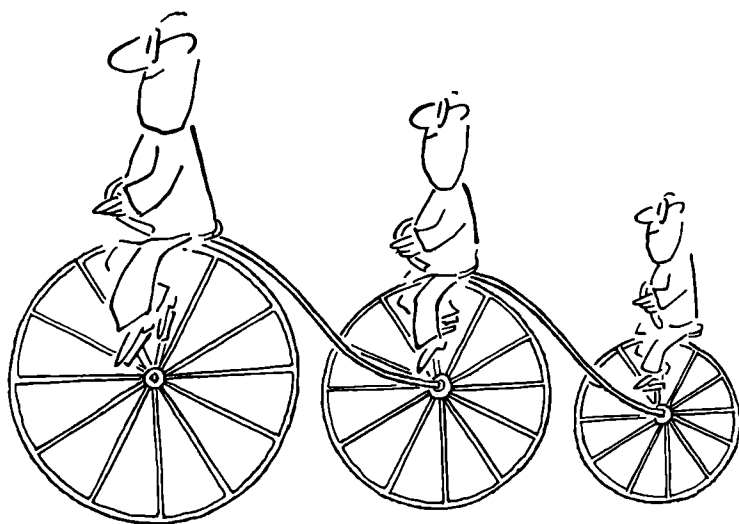
<sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

<sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.



**Sharing of  
power**

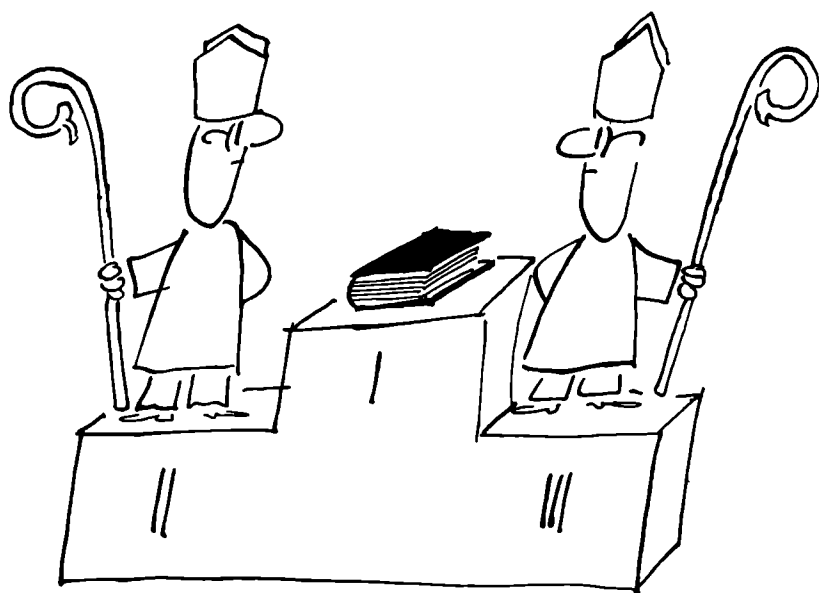
<sup>42</sup>So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>43</sup>But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup>and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all."



***The best places***

<sup>35</sup>James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." <sup>36</sup>And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" <sup>37</sup>And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." <sup>38</sup>But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" <sup>39</sup>They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; <sup>40</sup>but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

<sup>41</sup>When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. <sup>42</sup>So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>43</sup>But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup>and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup>For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."



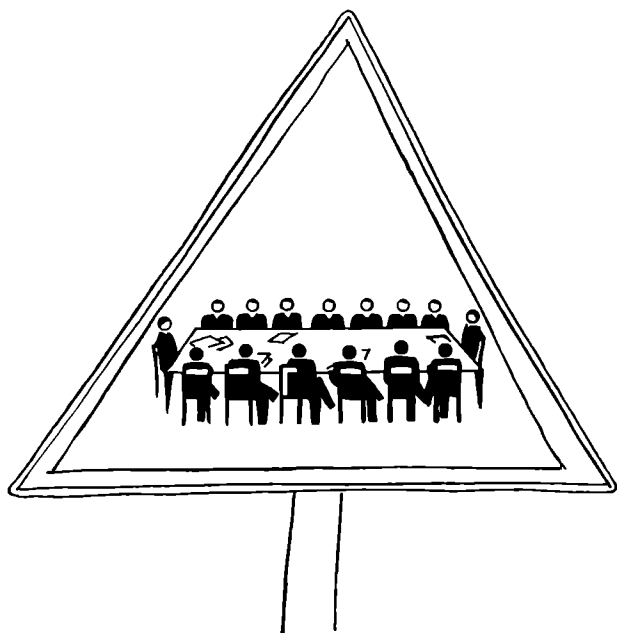
**Income tax**

<sup>13</sup>Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. <sup>14</sup>And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? <sup>15</sup>Should we pay them, or should we not?" But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it." <sup>16</sup>And they brought one. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to them, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at him.



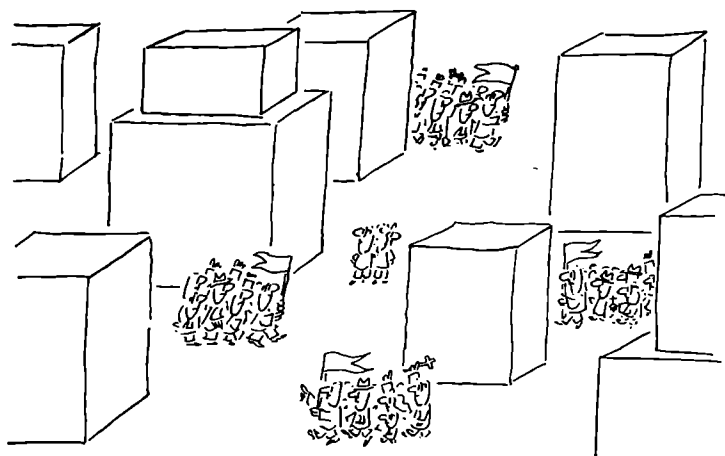
***Jesus' warning  
regarding the  
teachers of  
the Law***

<sup>38</sup>As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup>and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup>They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."



**Call for  
vigilance**

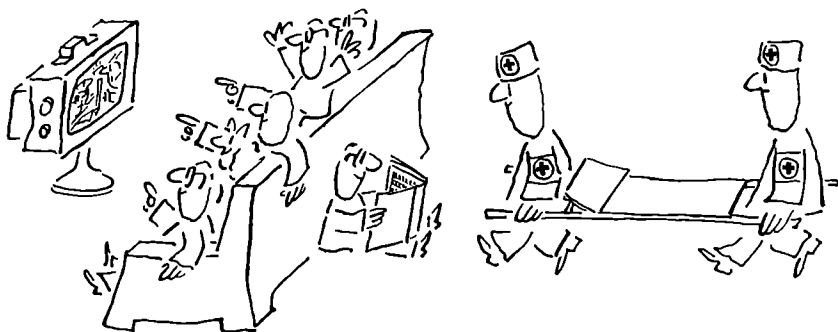
4“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” 5Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. 6Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray.”





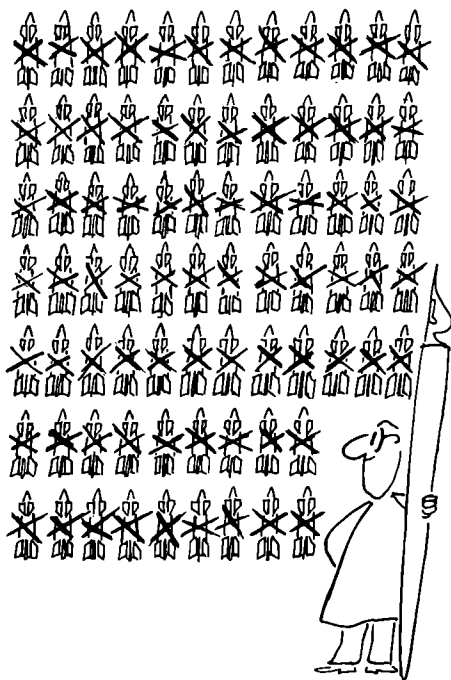
***The healthy  
sick***

<sup>31</sup>Jesus answered, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; <sup>32</sup>I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance."



**Love your  
enemies**

<sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.”



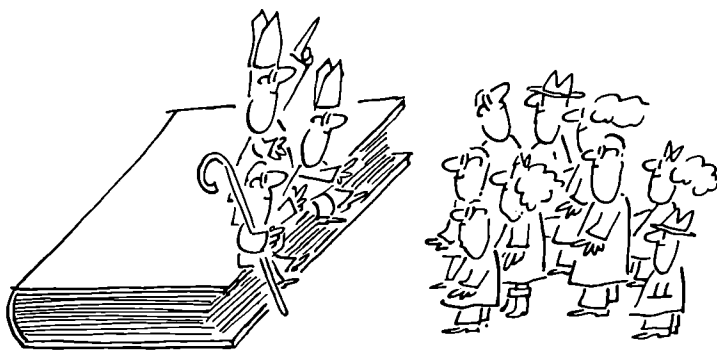
***Inner light***

<sup>34</sup>“Your eye is the lamp of your body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness. <sup>35</sup>Therefore consider whether the light in you is not darkness. <sup>36</sup>If then your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be as full of light as when a lamp gives you light with its rays.”



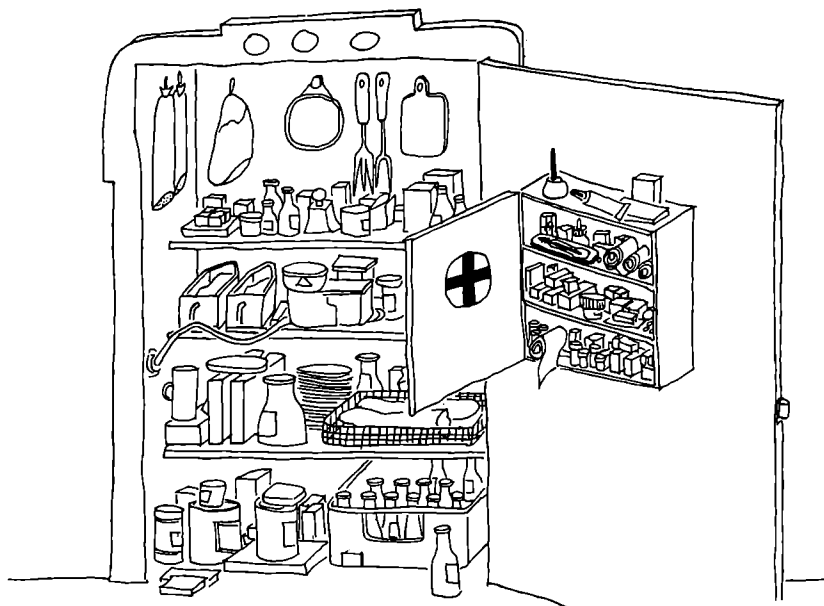
**Teachers of  
the law**

<sup>52</sup>"Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering."



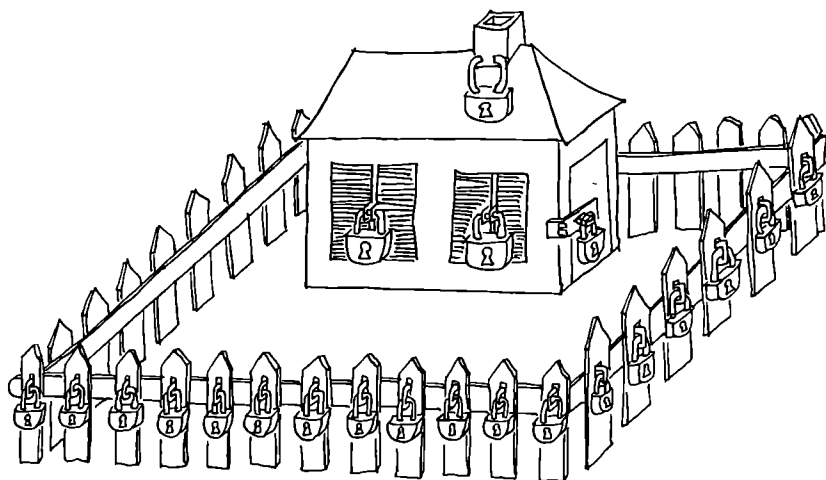
**About securing  
the necessities  
of life**

<sup>22</sup>He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup>Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?"



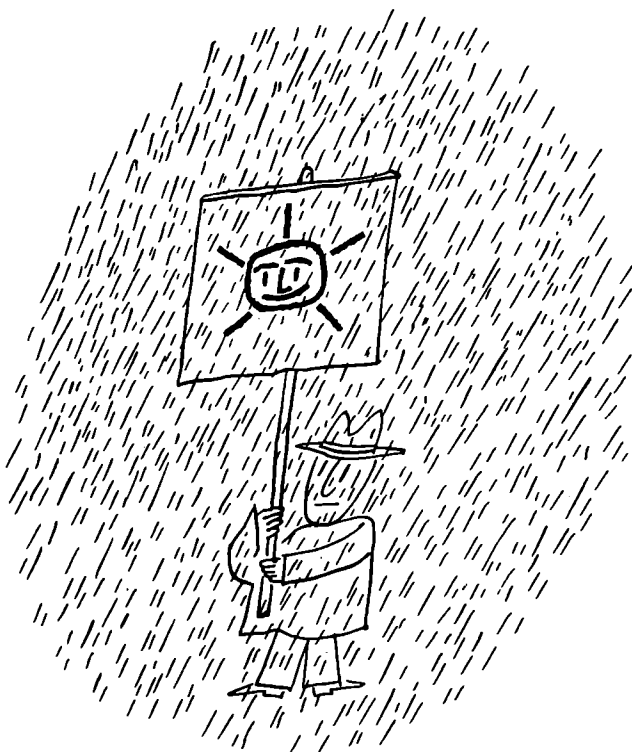
**True riches**

<sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



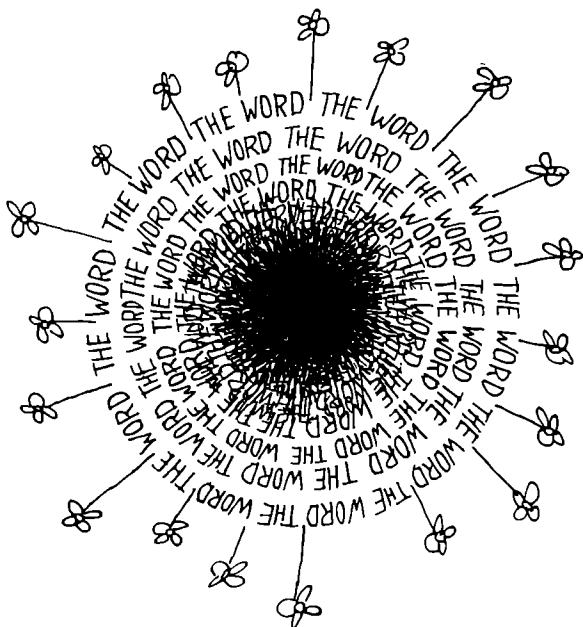
**About the  
perception  
of time**

<sup>54</sup>He also said to crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"



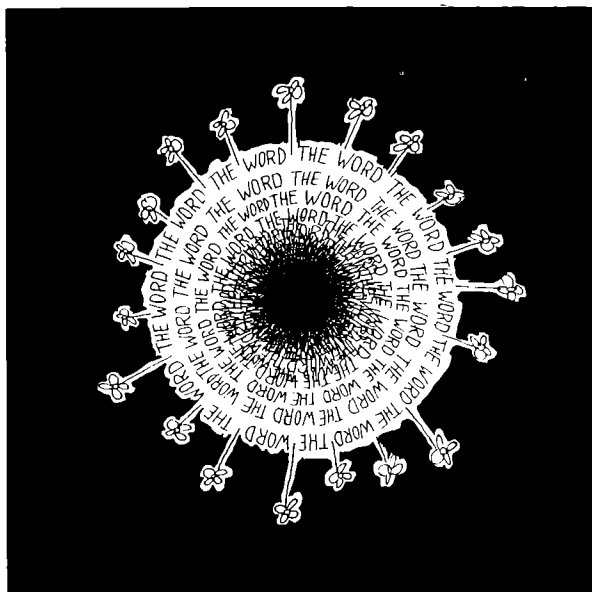
**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

...  
<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

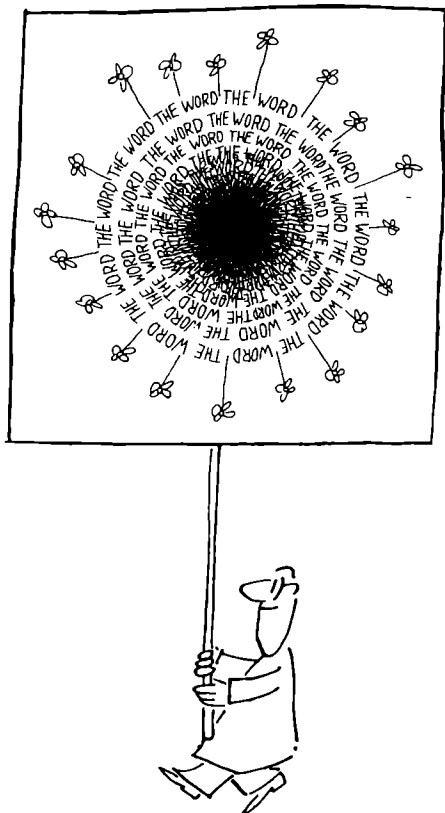




<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.



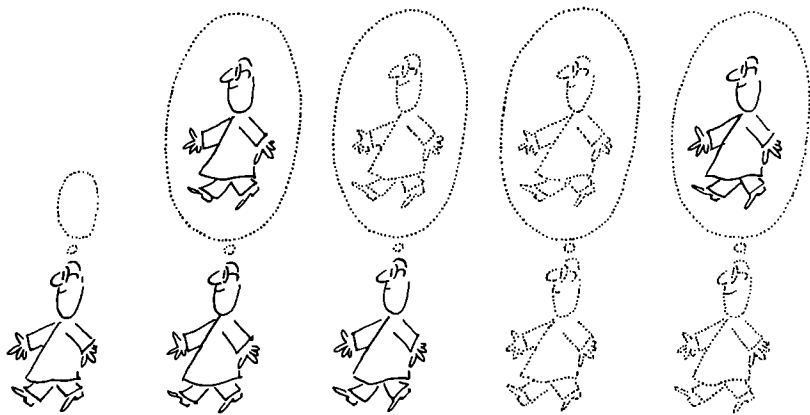
<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.



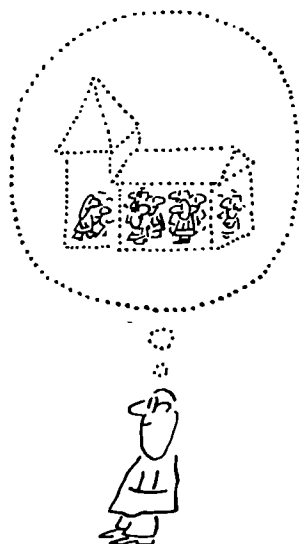
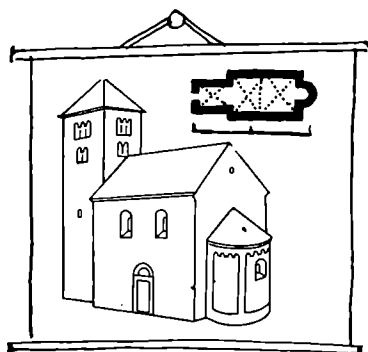
**Rebirth**

<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

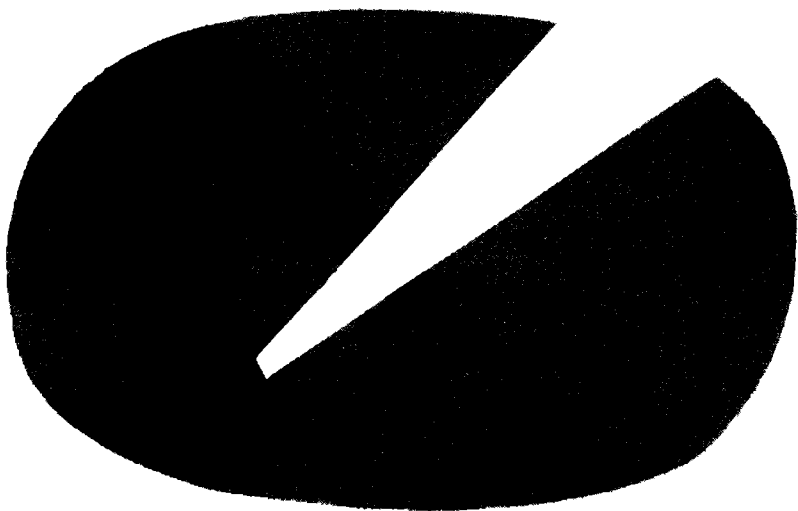
<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit."



‘What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

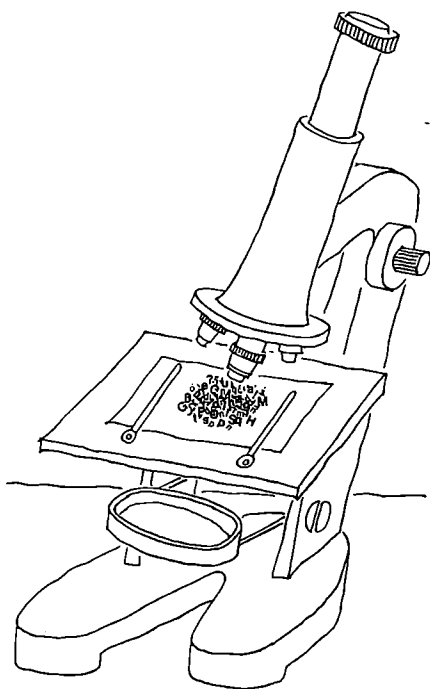


<sup>19</sup>“And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”



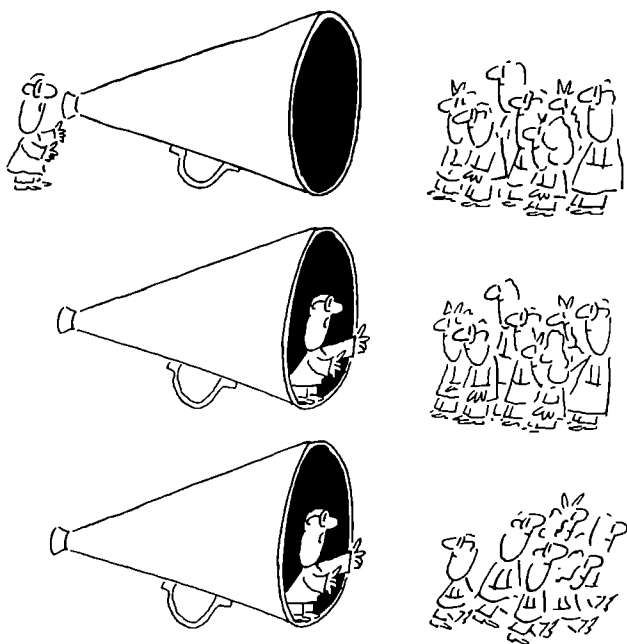
" . . . <sup>38</sup>and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

<sup>39</sup>"You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. <sup>40</sup>Yet you refuse to come to me to have life."



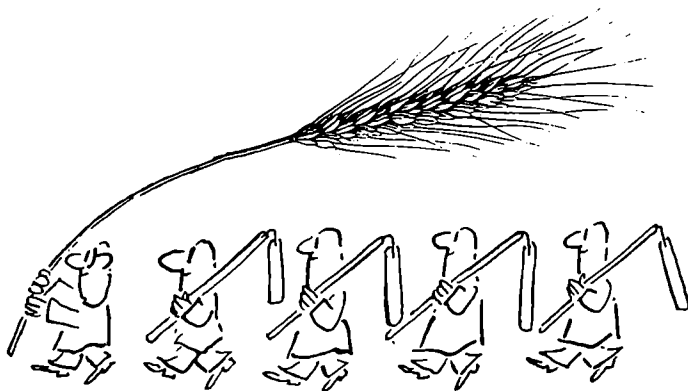
<sup>17</sup>Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own.

<sup>18</sup>Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him.



**Victim**

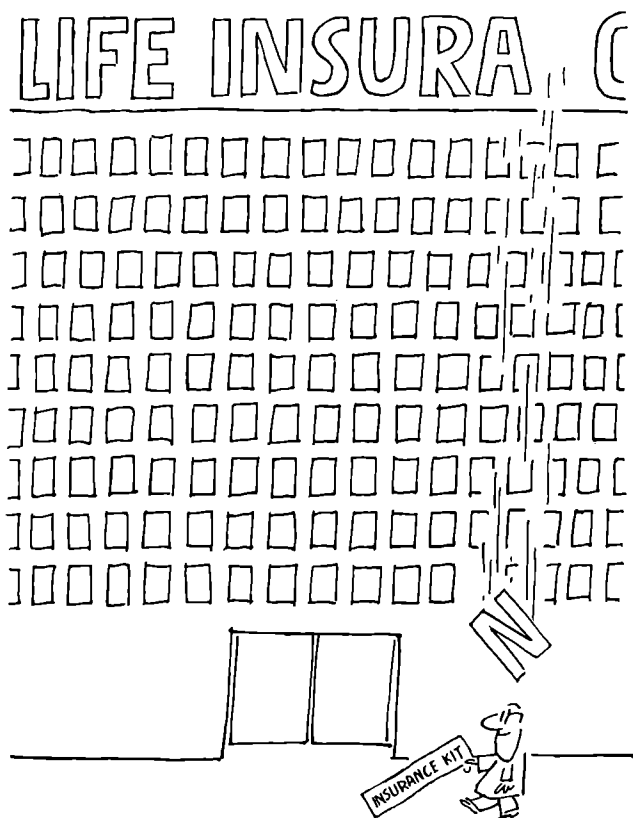
<sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.





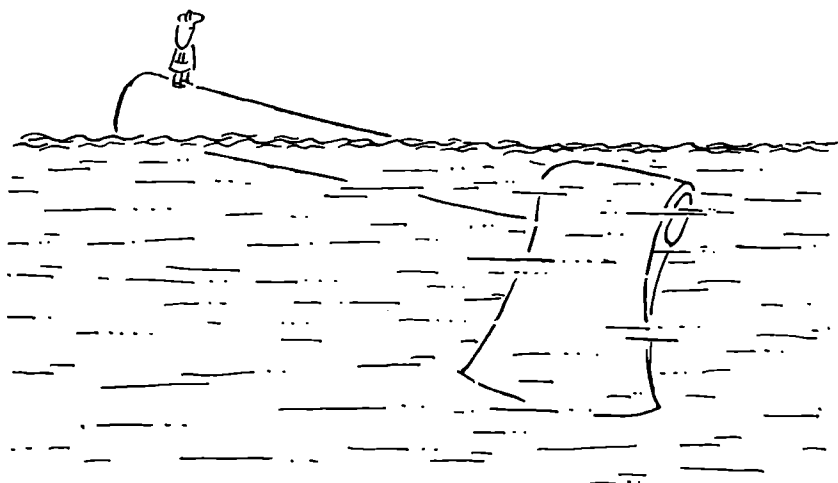
**Once again  
concerning  
eternal death**

<sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.



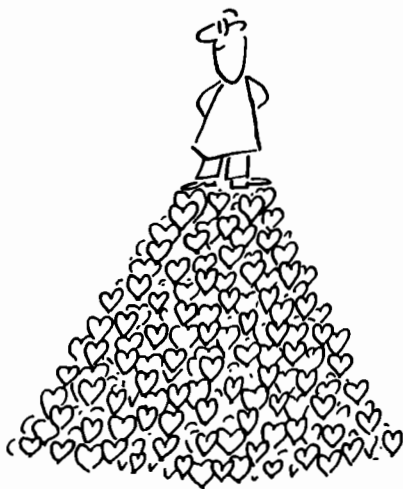
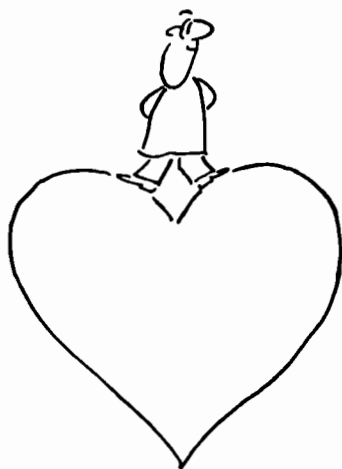
**Security**

<sup>47</sup>I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

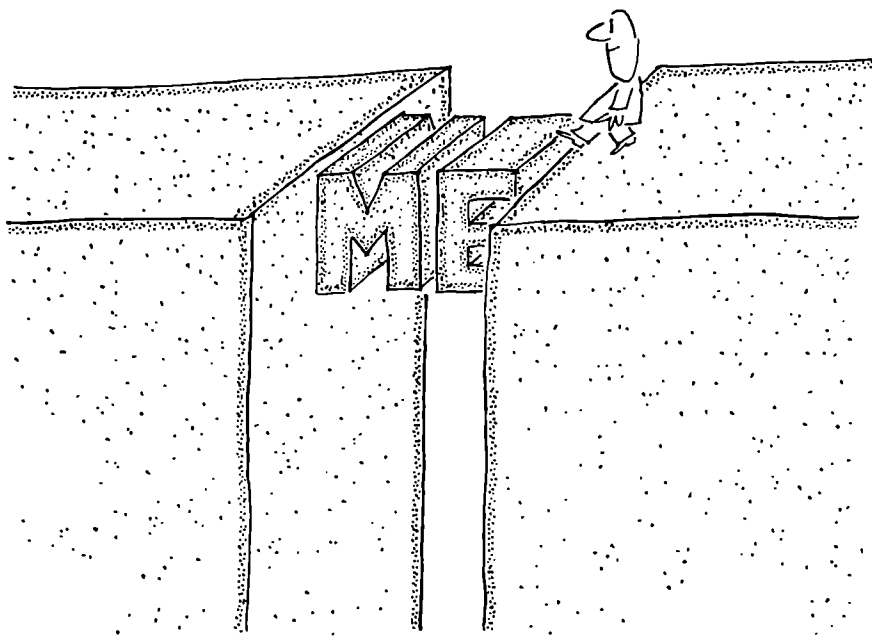


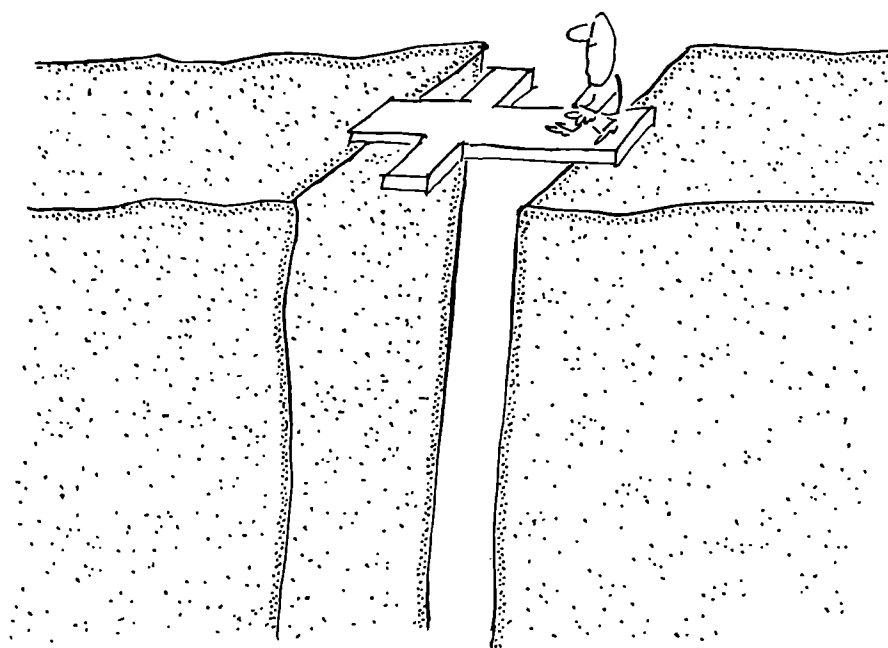
***New forms,  
new norms***

<sup>34</sup>"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

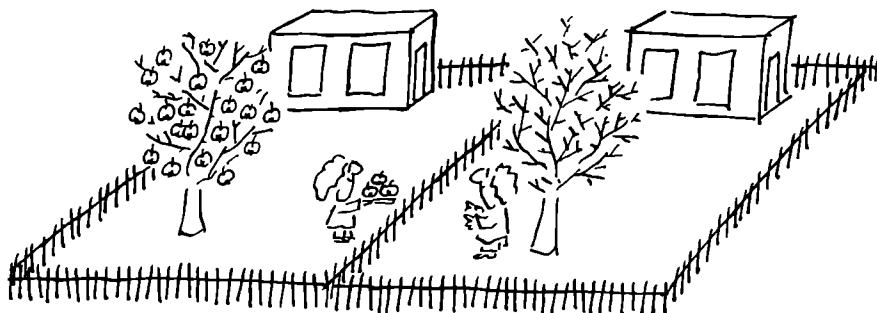


¶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

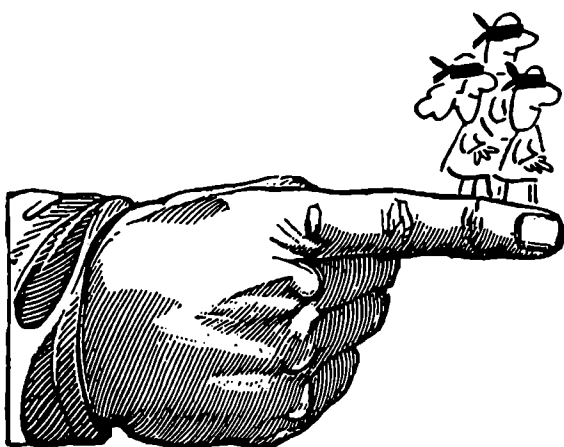




<sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

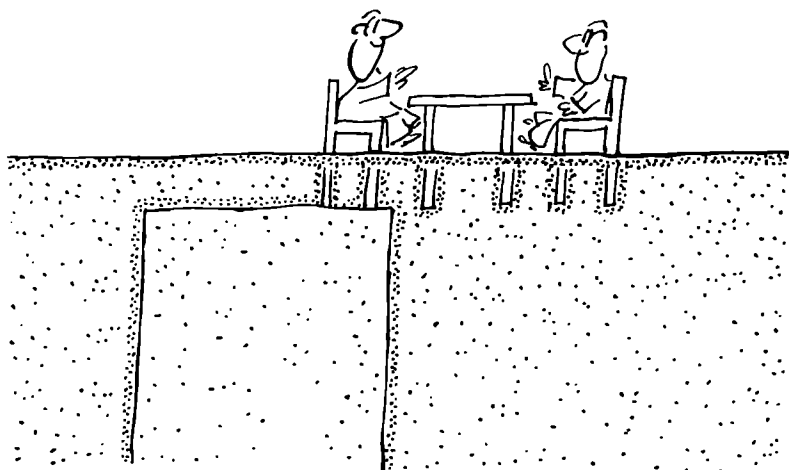


<sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."



<sup>11</sup>"This Jesus is  
    'the stone that was rejected by you,  
    the builders'  
    it has become the cornerstone.'

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there  
is no other name under heaven given among  
mortals by which we must be saved."





<sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority."



**God's  
building**

<sup>48</sup>Yet the Most High does not dwell in  
houses made with human hands; as the  
prophet says,

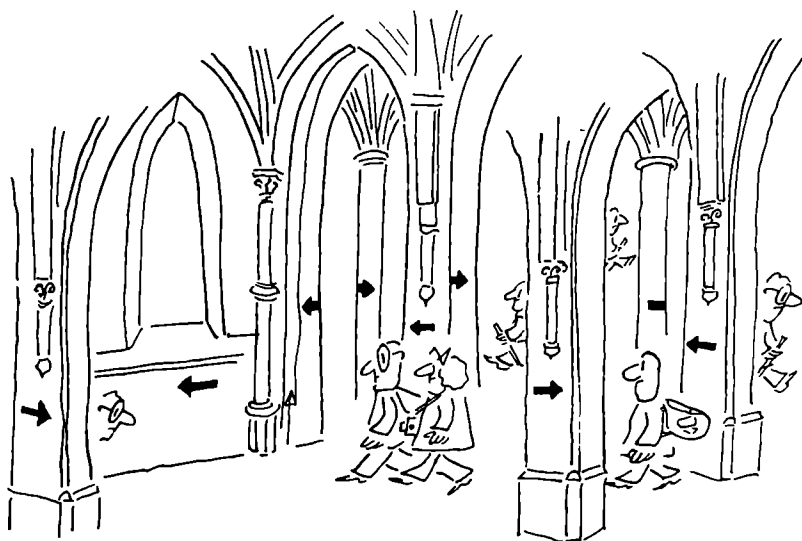
<sup>49</sup>"Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool.

What kind of house will you build

for me, says the LORD,

or what is the place of my rest?

<sup>50</sup>Did not my hand make all these things?"



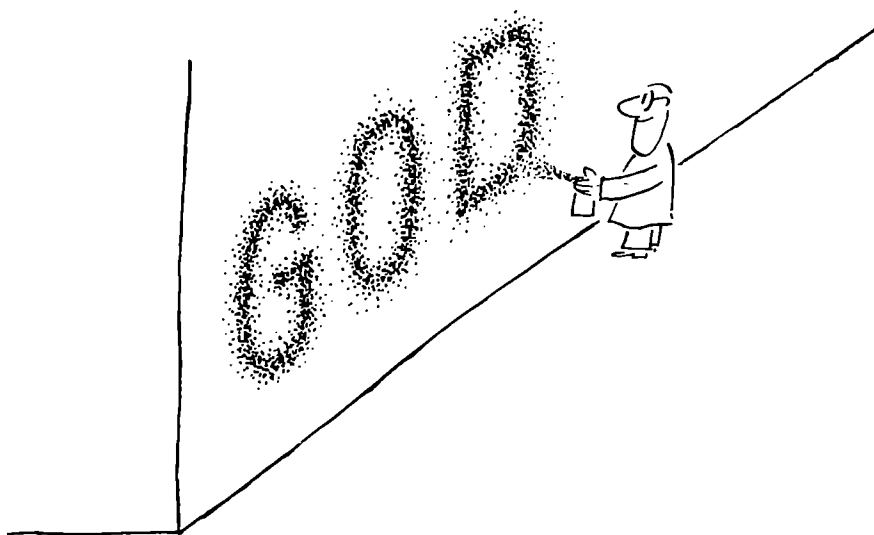
**God's witness**

<sup>22</sup>"To this day I have had help from God,  
and so I stand here, testifying to both small  
and great, saying nothing but what the  
prophets and Moses said would take place:  
<sup>23</sup>that the Messiah must suffer, and that, by  
being the first to rise from the dead, he  
would proclaim light both to our people and  
to the Gentiles."



**Confirmation**

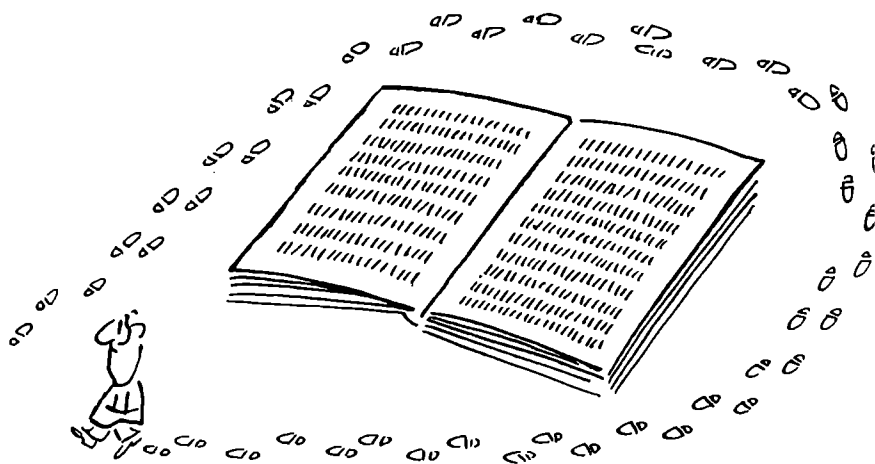
<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.



**On the  
wrong way**

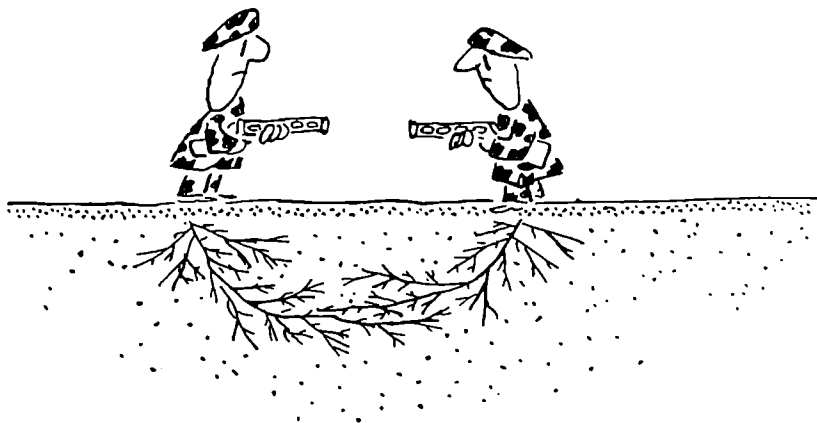
. . . <sup>21</sup>for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened.

<sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools.



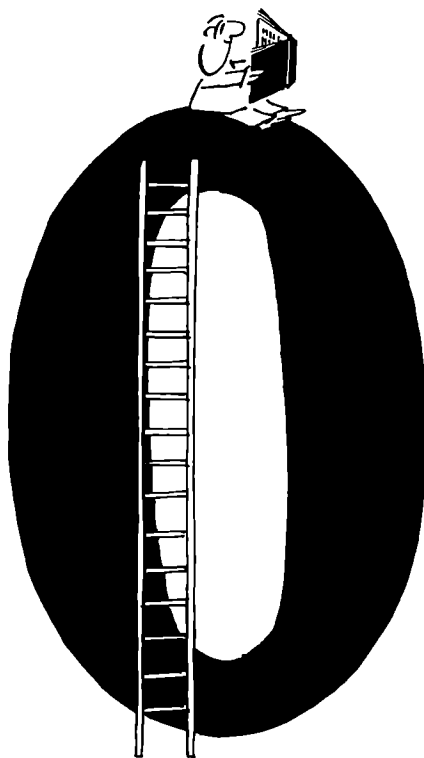
**Hopeless state**

- . . . <sup>10</sup>as it is written:  
"There is no one who is righteous,  
not even one;  
<sup>11</sup> there is no one who has understanding,  
there is no one who seeks God.  
<sup>12</sup>All have turned aside, together  
they have become worthless;  
there is no one who shows kindness,  
there is not even one."  
<sup>13</sup>"Their throats are opened graves;  
they use their tongues to deceive."  
"The venom of vipers is under their lips."  
<sup>14</sup> "Their mouths are full of cursing  
and bitterness."  
<sup>15</sup>"Their feet are swift to shed blood;  
<sup>16</sup> ruin and misery are in their paths,  
<sup>17</sup>and the way of peace they have  
not known."  
<sup>18</sup> "There is no fear of God before  
their eyes."



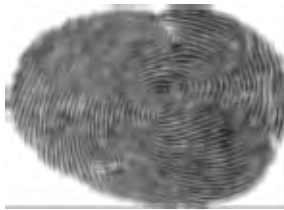
***Only through  
faith***

<sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.  
<sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. <sup>6</sup>So also David speaks of the blessedness of those to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works:  
<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven,  
and whose sins are covered;  
<sup>8</sup>blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin."



<sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

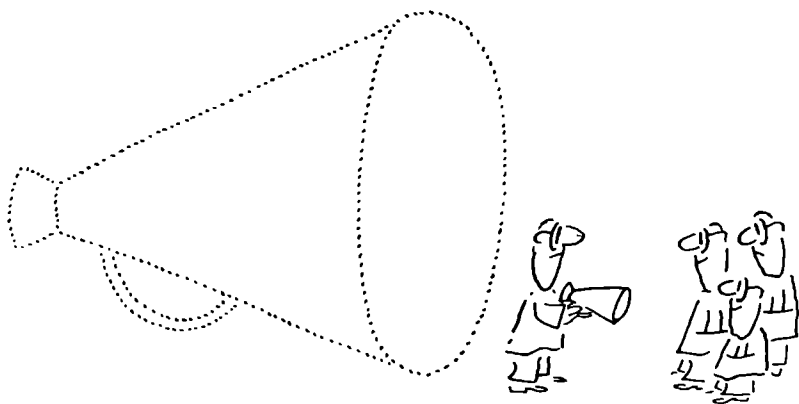
<sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.



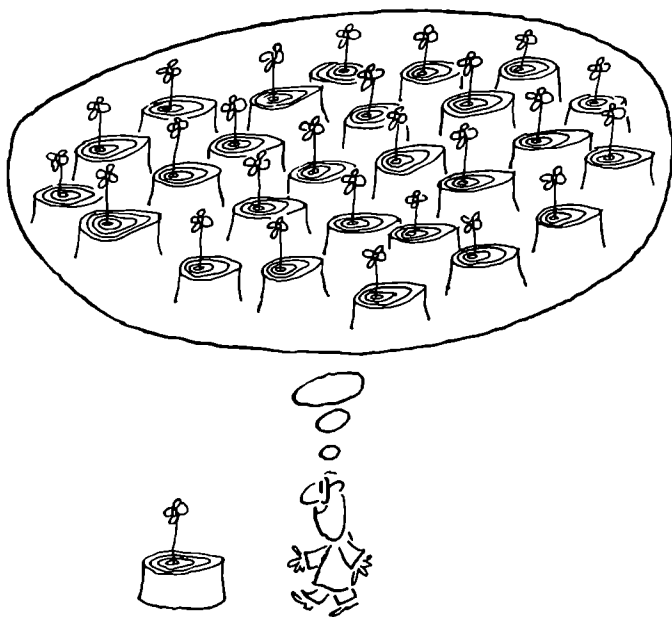




<sup>17</sup>So faith comes from what is heard, and  
what is heard comes through the word of  
Christ.



<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

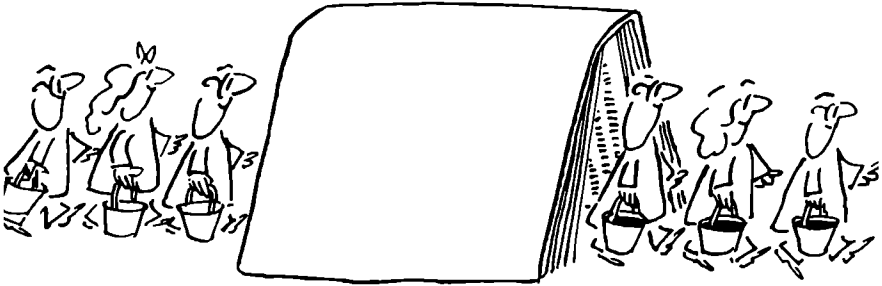


**14** Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them.



***From a  
reliable  
source***

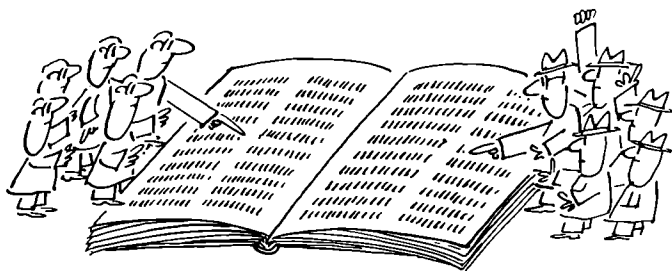
<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy  
and peace in believing, so that you may  
abound in hope by the power of the Holy  
Spirit.



Glasses  
and hats

<sup>10</sup>Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.

<sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup>Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

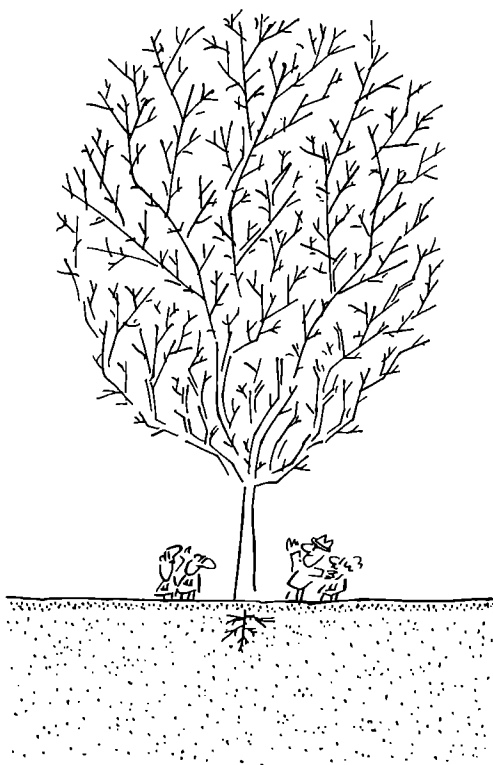


**Strong and  
weak**

<sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

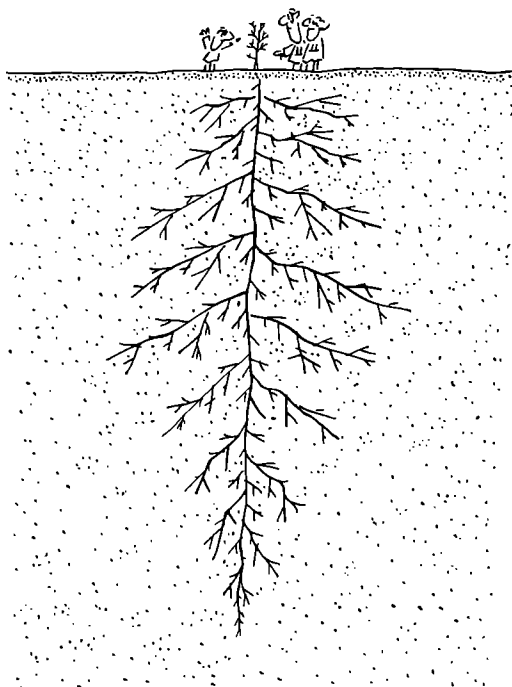
<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning  
I will thwart.”



<sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

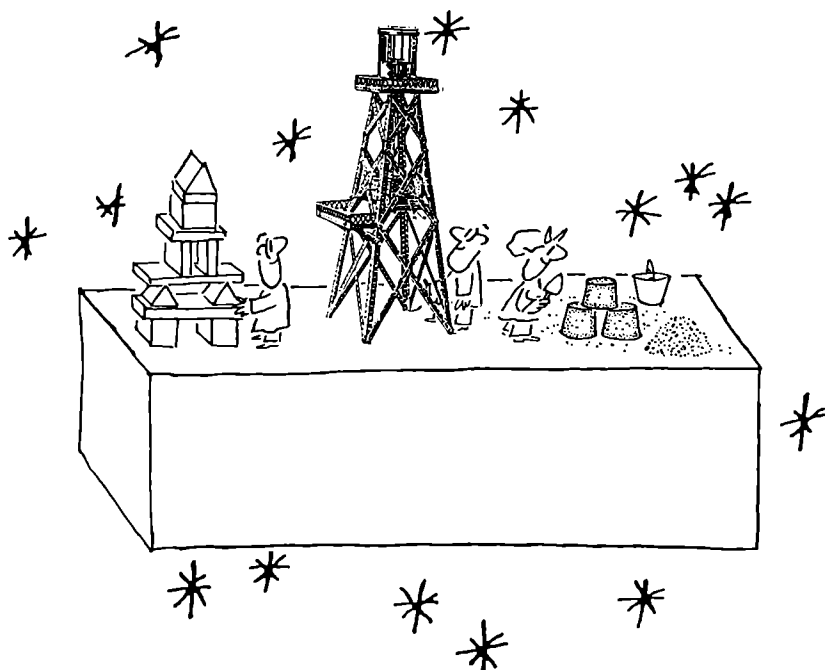
<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God.





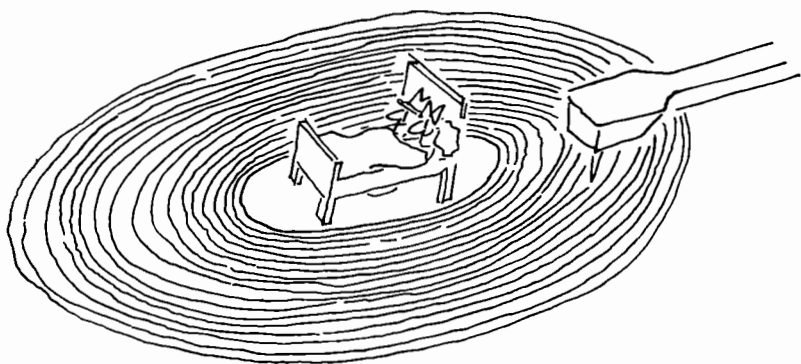
**Foundation  
stone**

<sup>11</sup>For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—<sup>13</sup>the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done.



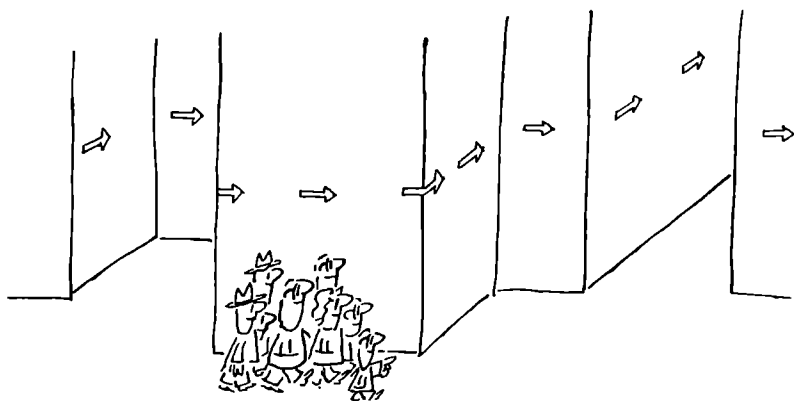
***On the  
island of  
matrimony***

<sup>10</sup>To the married I give this command—not I but the Lord—that the wife should not separate from her husband <sup>11</sup>(but if she does separate, let her remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.



**Knowledge**

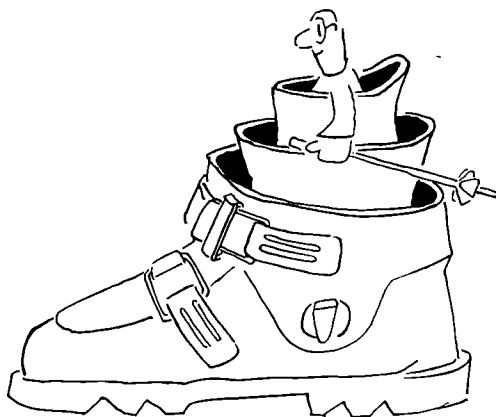
**8** Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.



**Adequate  
examination**

<sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.

<sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

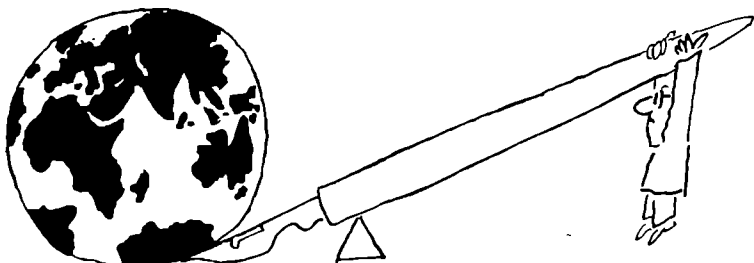


***The Spirit***

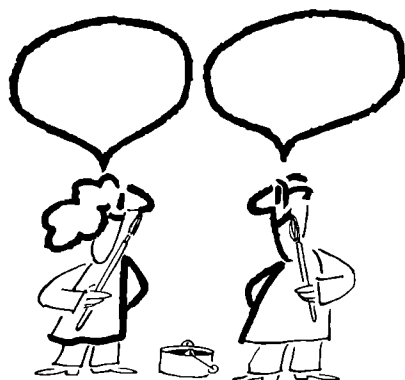
<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.



<sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all my mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

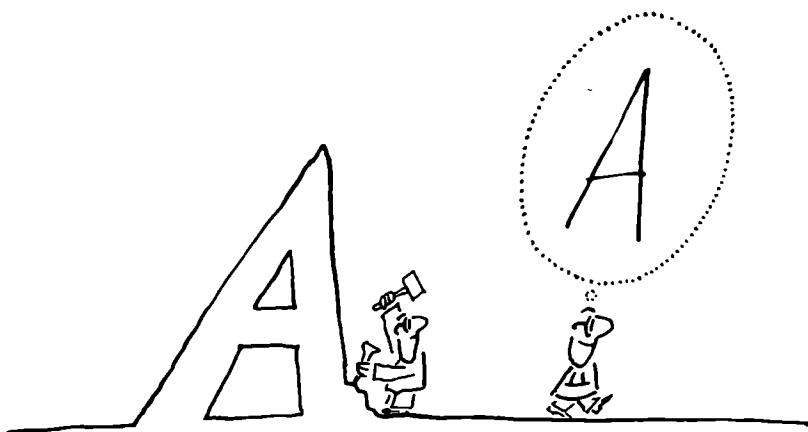


<sup>13</sup>Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. <sup>14</sup>Let all that you do be done in love.



. . . <sup>6</sup>who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

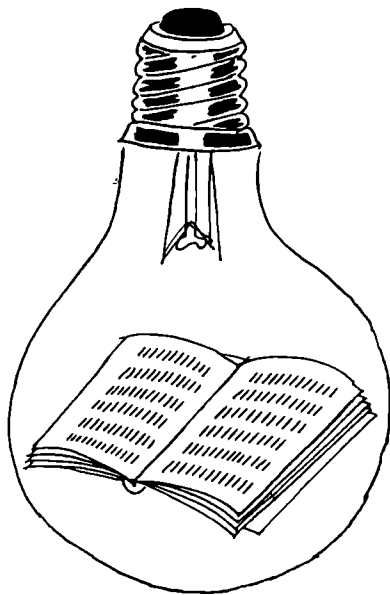
<sup>7</sup>Now if the ministry of death, chiseled in letters on stone tablets, came in glory so that the people of Israel could not gaze at Moses' face because of the glory of his face, a glory now set aside, <sup>8</sup>how much more will the ministry of the Spirit come in glory?





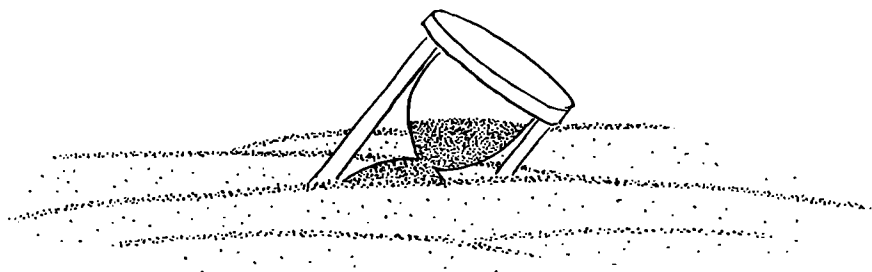
***Light of  
the heart***

“For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

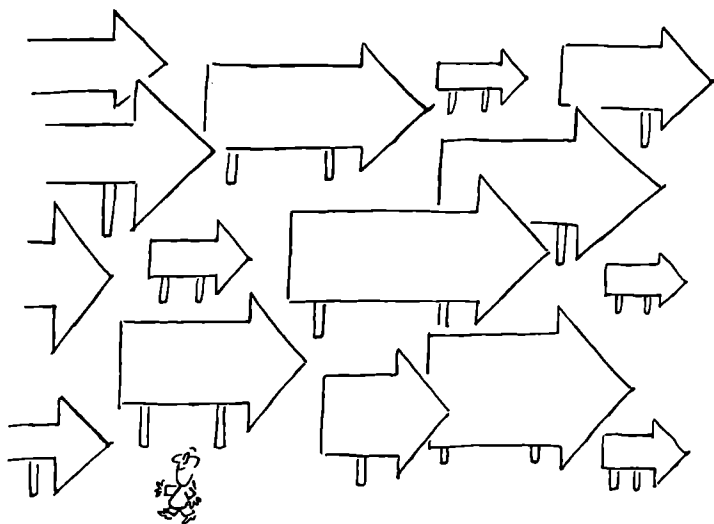


***Time and  
eternity***

. . . <sup>18</sup>because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.



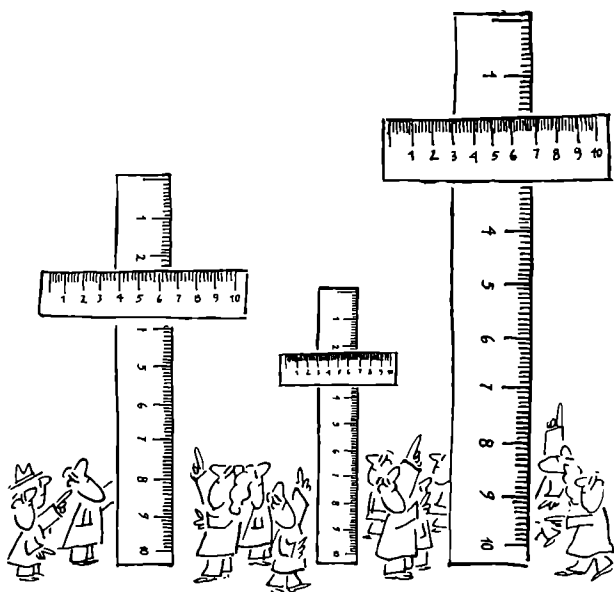
. . . for we walk by faith, not by sight.



**New scale**

<sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

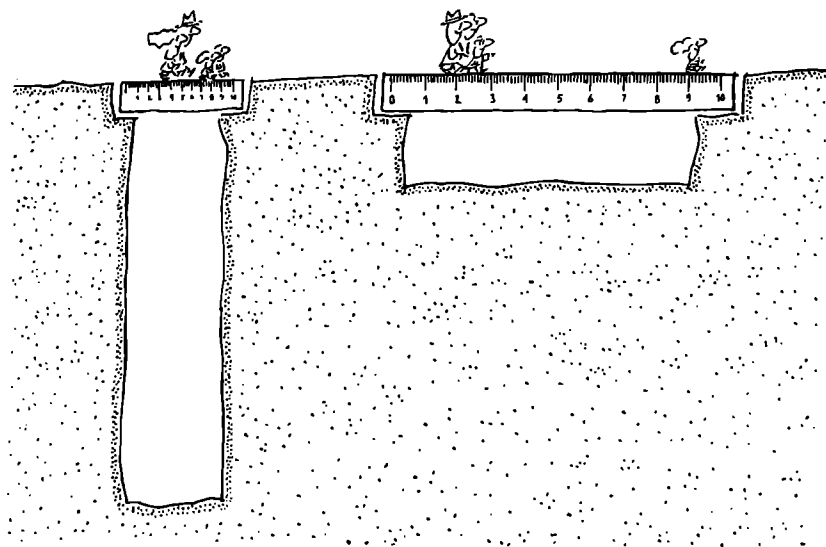
<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!



**6** As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

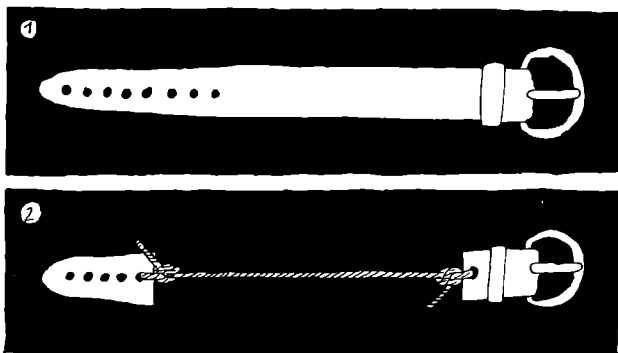
"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

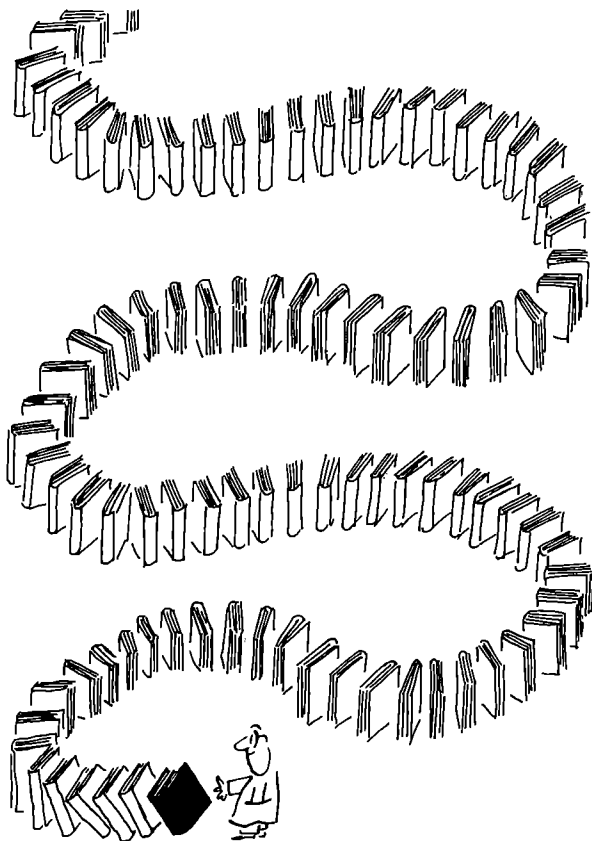


### **About necessity**

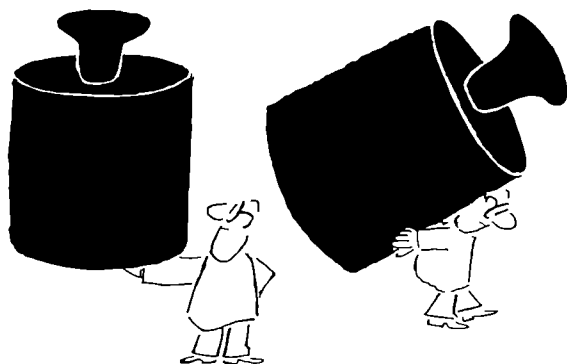
<sup>6</sup>The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written,  
"He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever."



<sup>3</sup>Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; <sup>4</sup>for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments <sup>5</sup>and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.



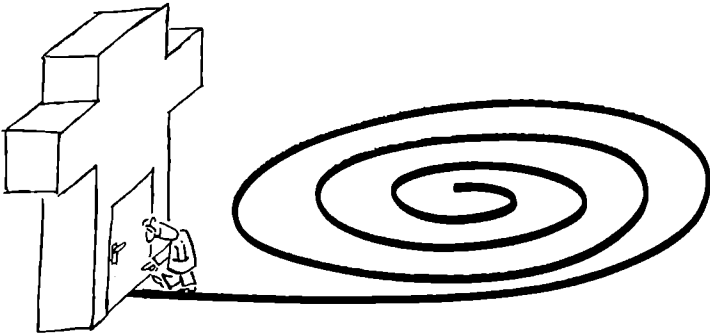
. . . but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.





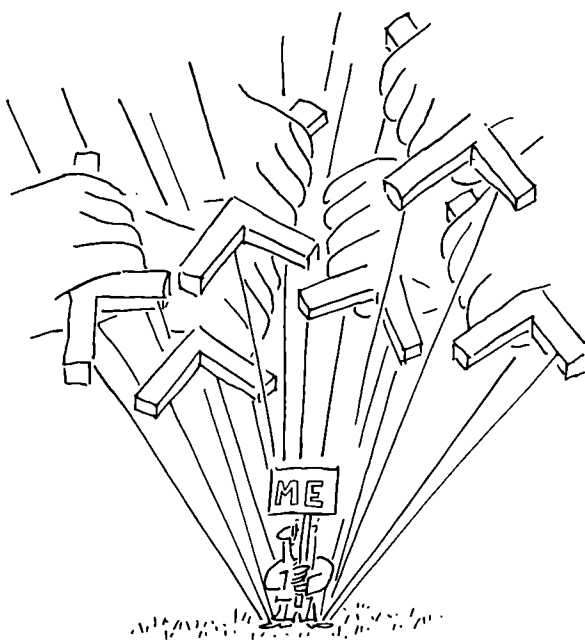
***The way out***

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.



**Slavery**

<sup>8</sup>Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup>Now, however, that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits? How can you want to be enslaved to them again?

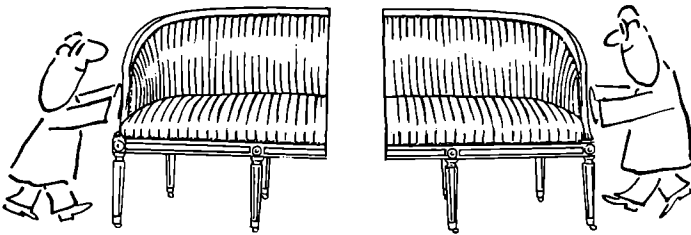


<sup>22</sup>By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.



***Jew and  
pagan***

<sup>14</sup>For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. <sup>15</sup>He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. <sup>17</sup>So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; <sup>18</sup>for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.



<sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

<sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.



**Mutual  
subjectivity**

<sup>21</sup>Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

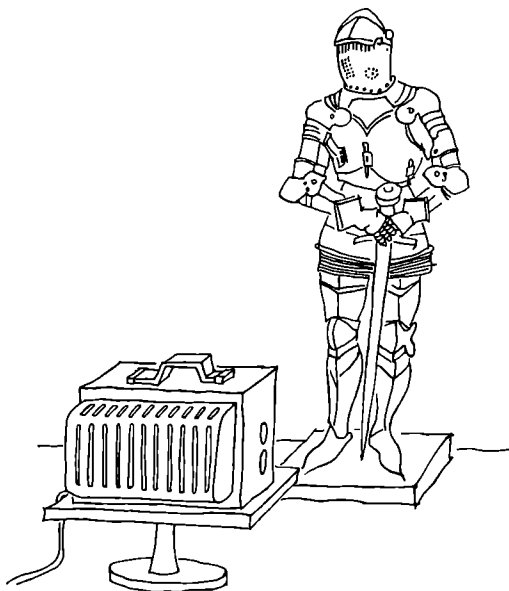
<sup>22</sup>Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup>in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word . . . <sup>31</sup>"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup>This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.



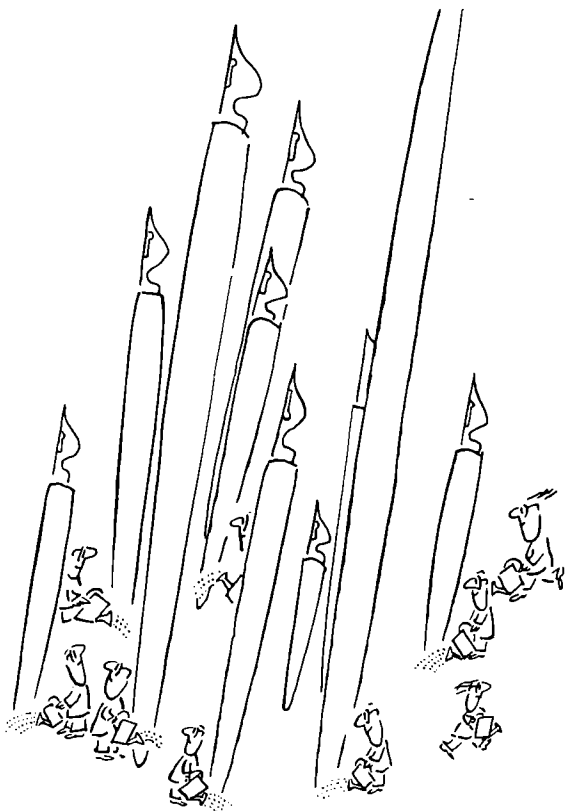
***Nonsense  
from the air***

<sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.  
<sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.



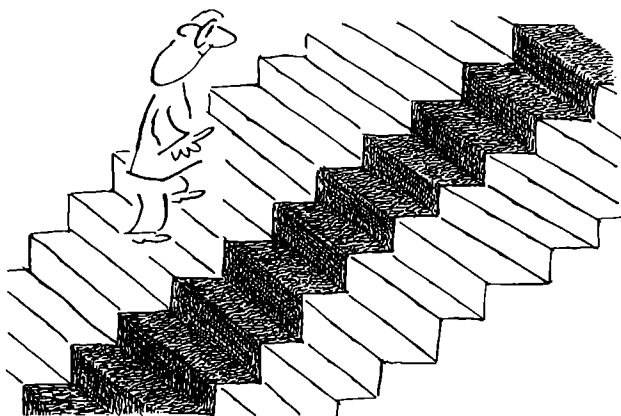
<sup>15</sup>Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. . . .

<sup>18</sup>What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice.



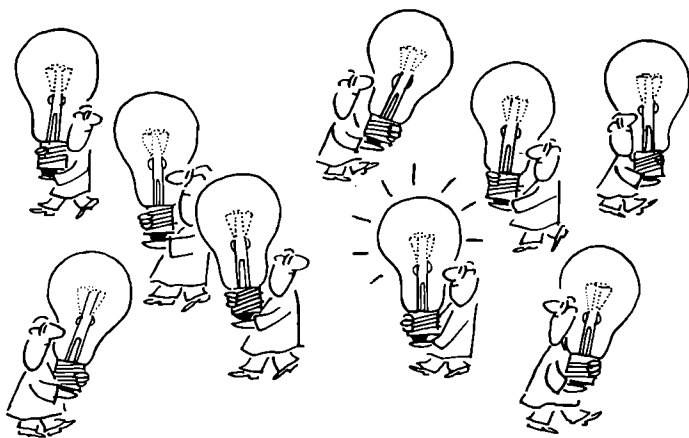


. . . <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

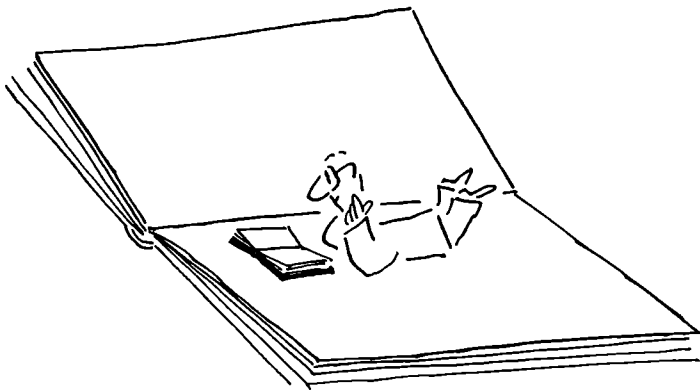


***From the  
power of God***

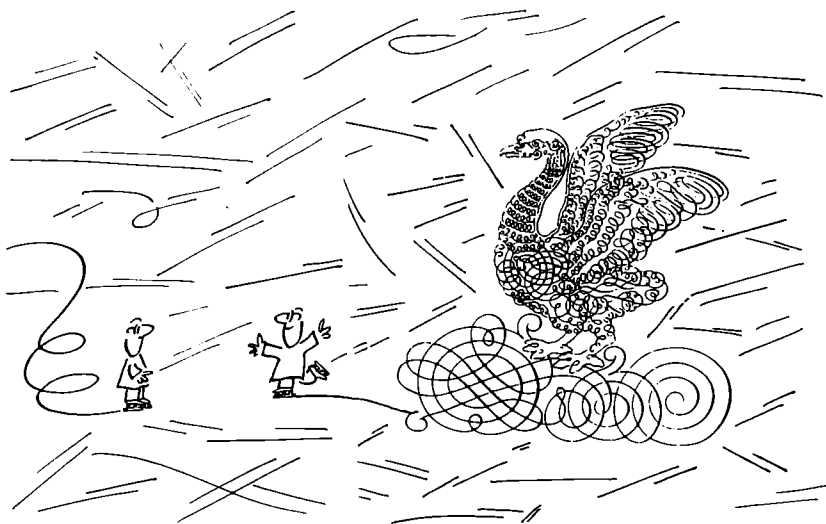
<sup>14</sup>Do all things without murmuring and arguing, <sup>15</sup>so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world.



<sup>2</sup>I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, <sup>3</sup>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. <sup>4</sup>I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments.



<sup>a</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ.



**Connection**

**3** So if you have been raised with Christ,  
seek the things that are above, where  
Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.  
<sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above,  
not on things that are on earth.

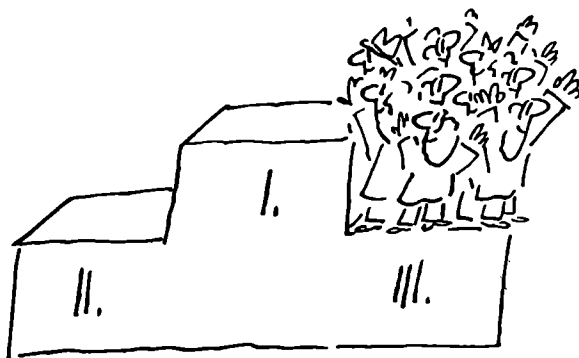




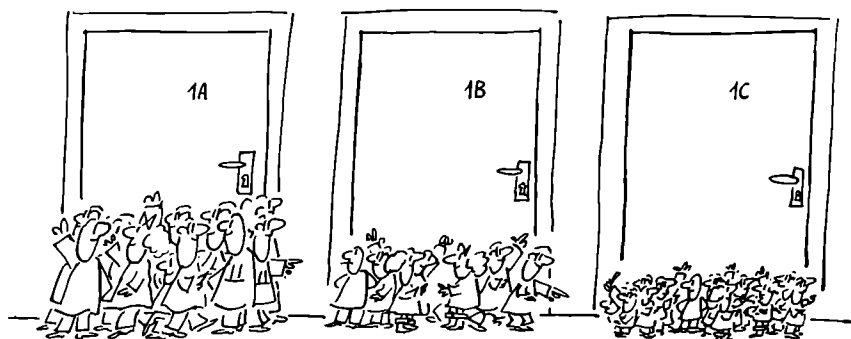
**About the  
gold and  
bronze medals**

<sup>11</sup>In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.



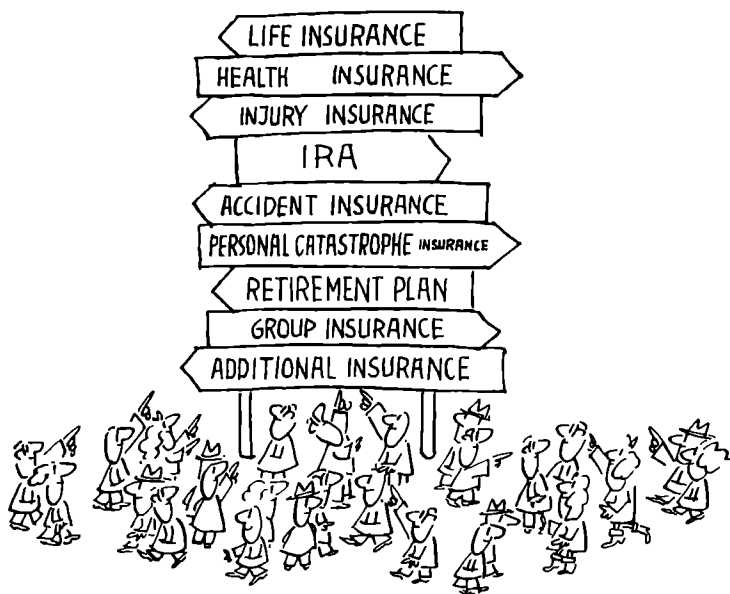
<sup>21</sup>Fathers, do not provoke your children, or  
they may lose heart.





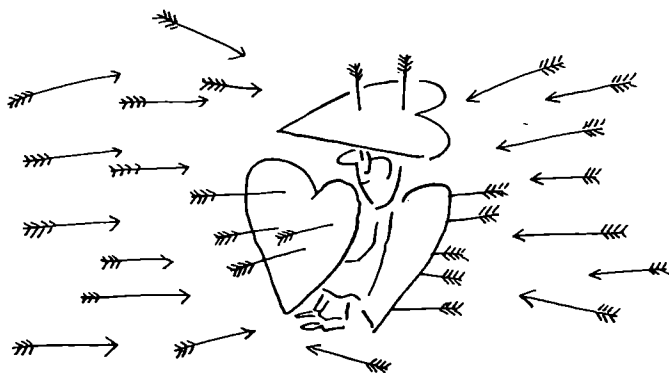
**Insurance**

<sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

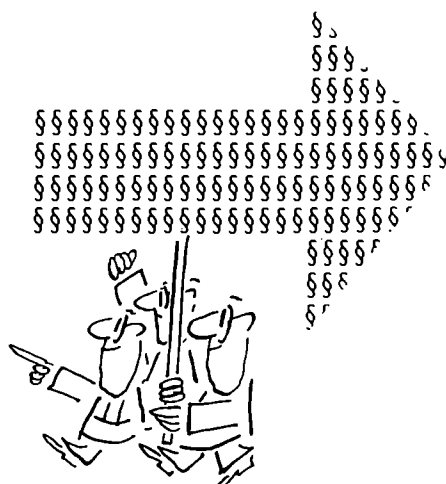


**My strength**

<sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ . . . <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

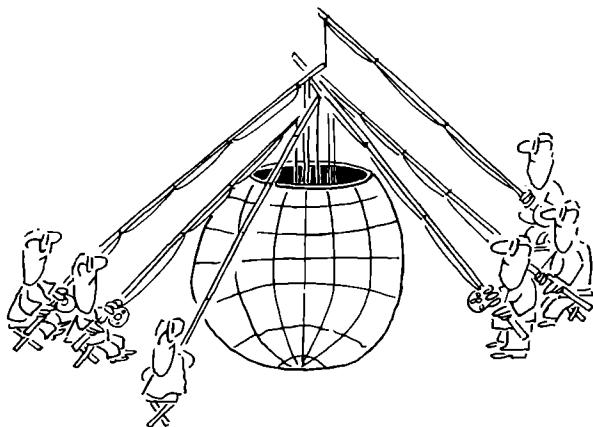


<sup>7</sup>For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but only until the one who now restrains it is removed. <sup>8</sup>And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will destroy with the breath of his mouth, annihilating him by the manifestation of his coming.



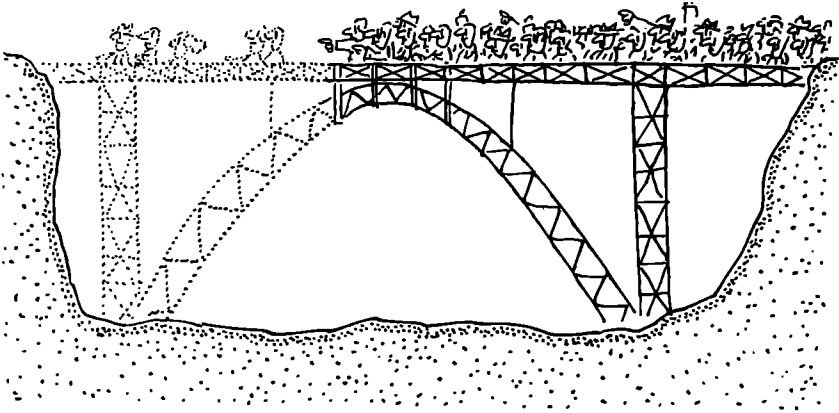
**To catch  
something in  
filthy water**

<sup>3</sup>I urge you, as I did when I was on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine, <sup>4</sup>and not to occupy themselves with myths and endless genealogies that promote speculations rather than the divine training that is known by faith. <sup>5</sup>But the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. <sup>6</sup>Some people have deviated from these and turned to meaningless talk, <sup>7</sup>desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make assertions.



**The  
supporting  
pillar**

- <sup>5</sup>For there is one God;  
there is also one mediator  
between God and humankind,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,  
<sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all . . . .

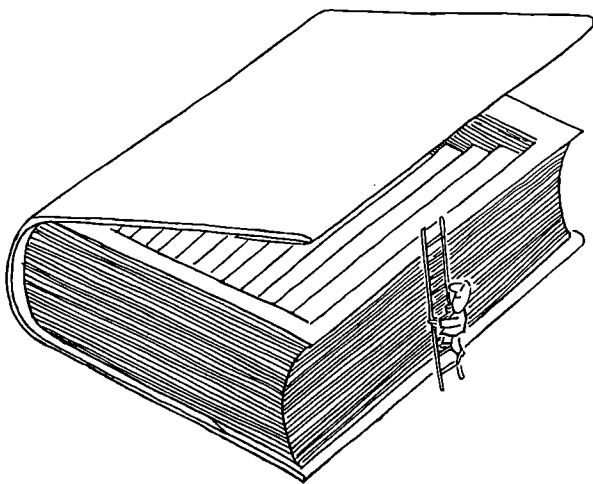


***Opportunity  
for change***

<sup>23</sup>Have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. <sup>24</sup>And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, <sup>25</sup>correcting opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth, <sup>26</sup>and that they may escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.



<sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.



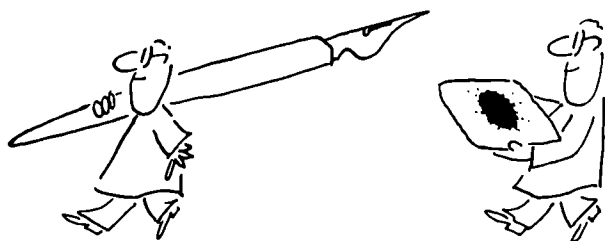
***The final call***

. . . <sup>2</sup>proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desire.



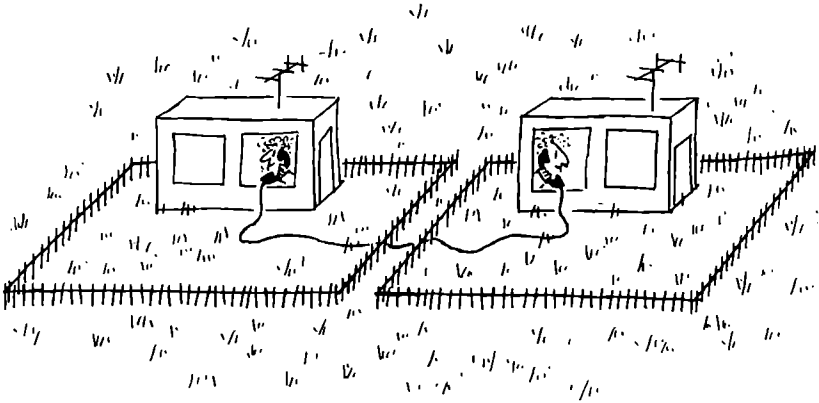


<sup>15</sup>To the pure all things are pure, but to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure. Their very minds and consciences are corrupted. <sup>16</sup>They profess to know God, but they deny him by their actions. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.



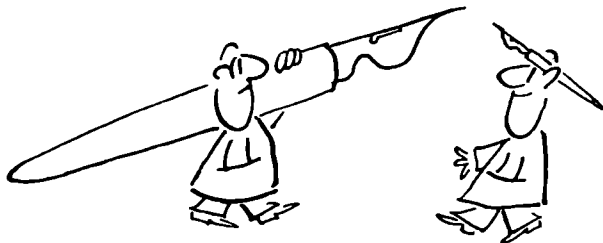
<sup>2</sup>Tell the older men to be temperate, serious, prudent, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance.

<sup>3</sup>Likewise, tell the older women to be reverent in behavior, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good.



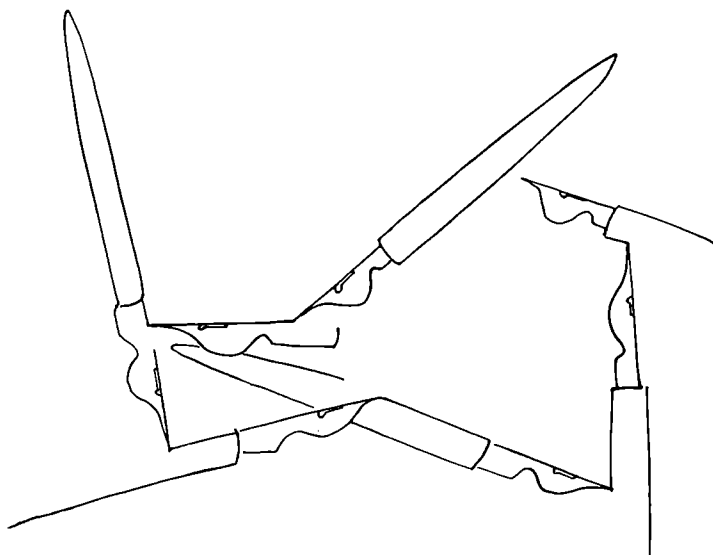
**Disciple**

. . . <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me.

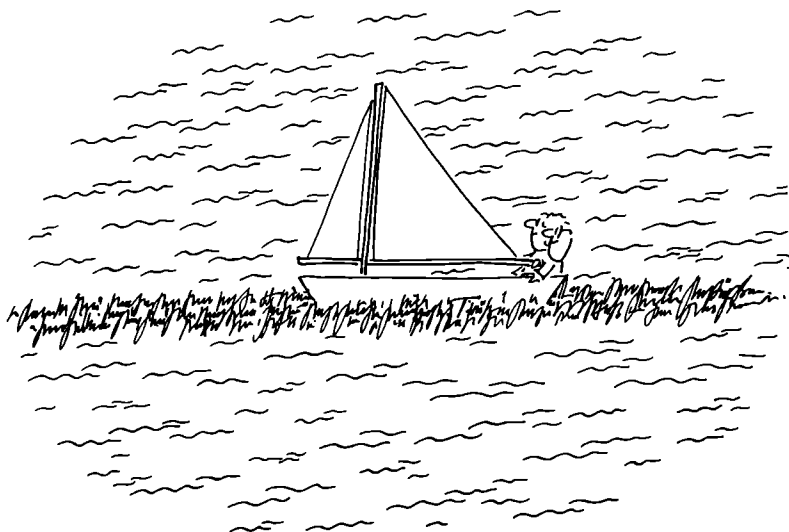


***Reminder  
through the  
prophets***

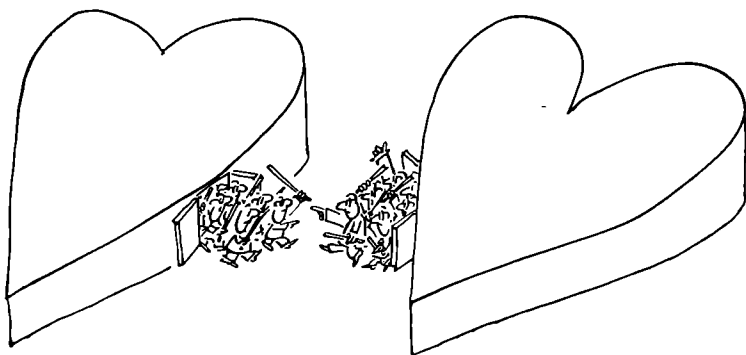
**1** Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,  
<sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.



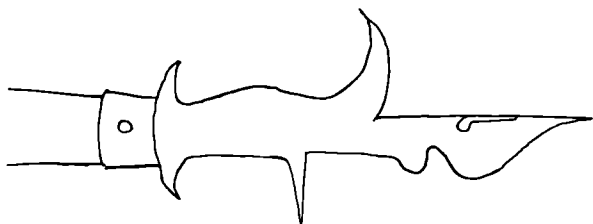
**2** Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.



<sup>12</sup>Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. <sup>13</sup>But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup>For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end.



<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



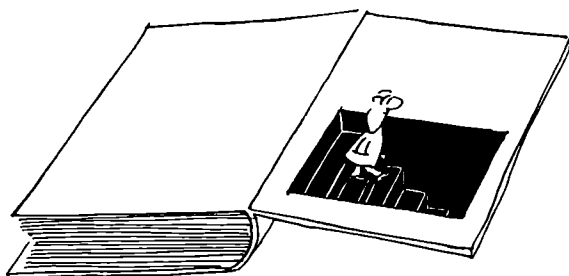
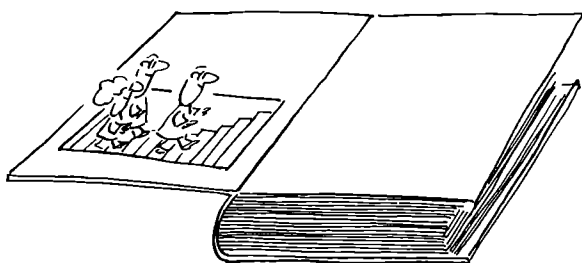
<sup>12</sup>For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; <sup>13</sup>for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.





. . . <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering . . . .

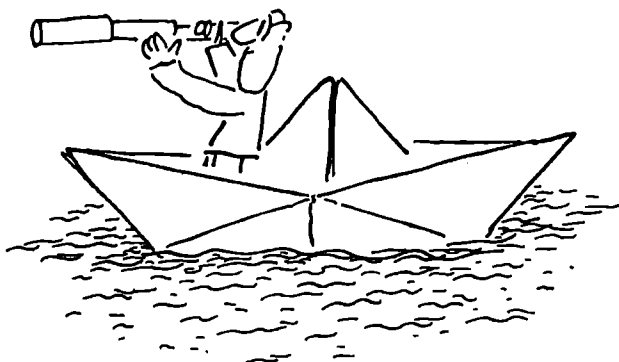
<sup>26</sup>For if we willfully persist in sin after having received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.



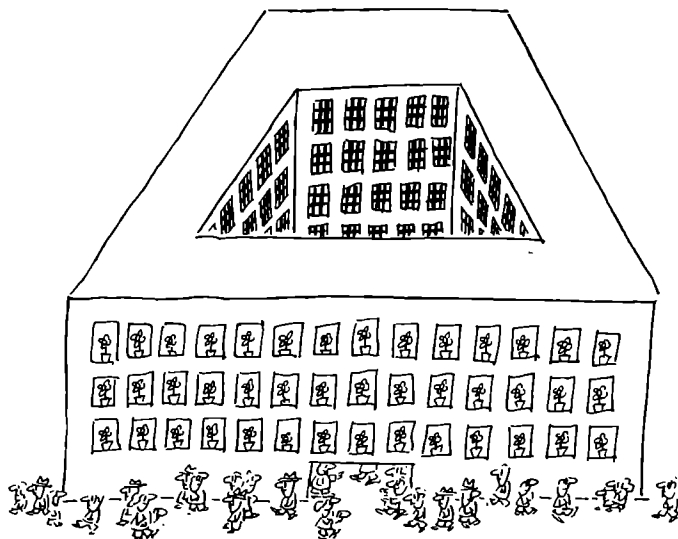
<sup>36</sup>For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.



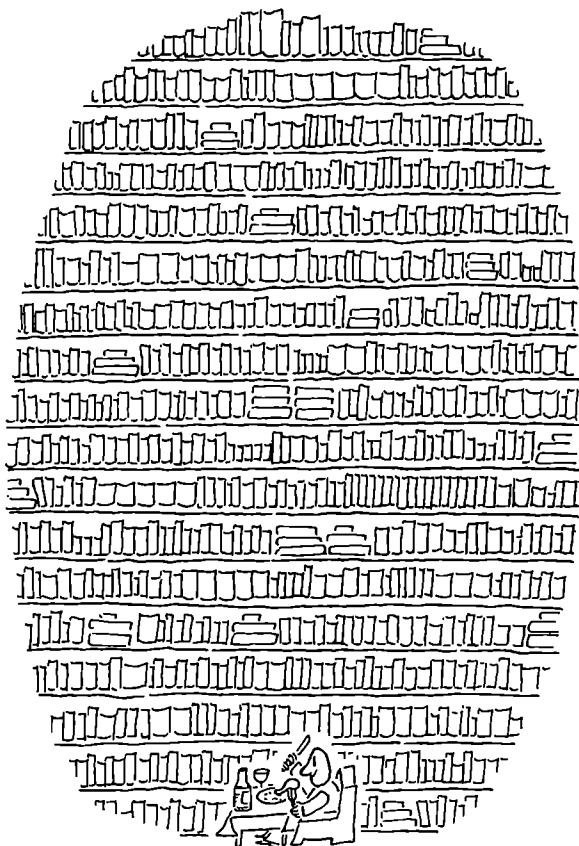
**11** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.



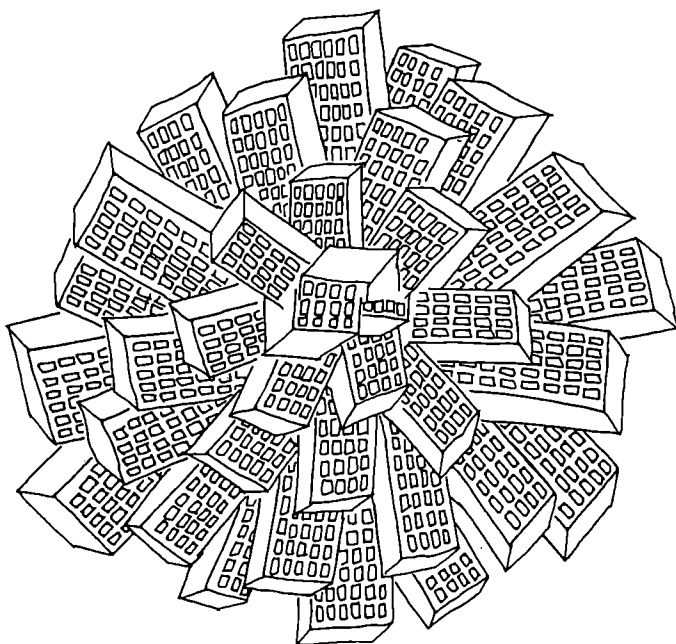
<sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.



<sup>9</sup>Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings; for it is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by regulations about food, which have not benefited those who observe them.



<sup>14</sup>For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.



<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved:  
let everyone be quick to listen, slow to  
speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does  
not produce God's righteousness. . . .

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not  
merely hearers who deceive themselves.  
<sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not  
doers, they are like those who look at  
themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at  
themselves and, on going away, immediately  
forget what they were like.



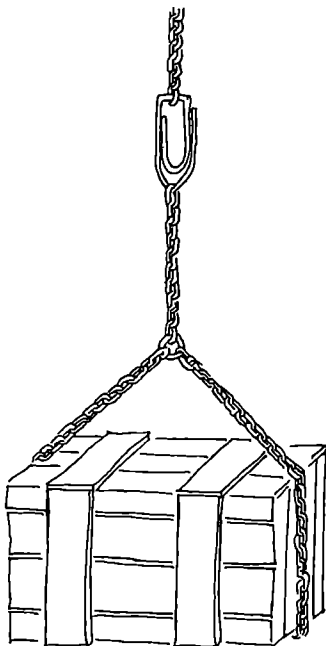
***The rich and the poor***

**2** My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

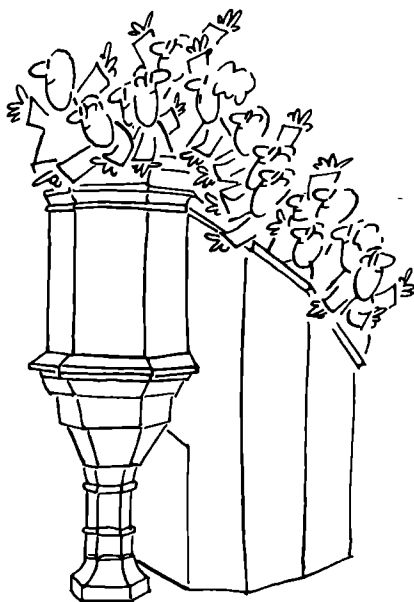




<sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.



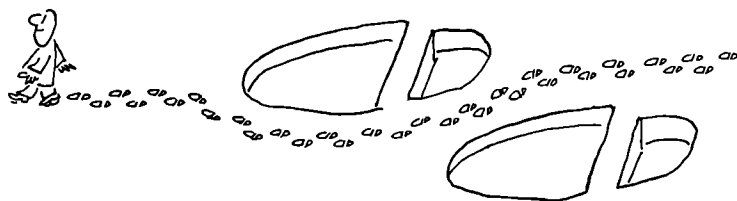
**3** Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.



**<sup>17</sup>Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin.**



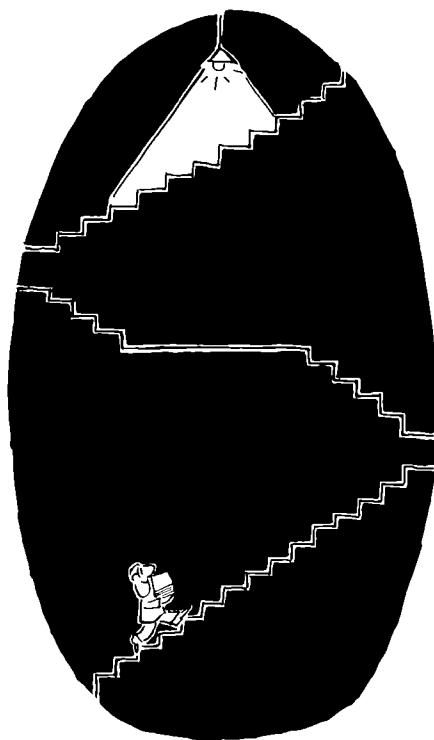
<sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.



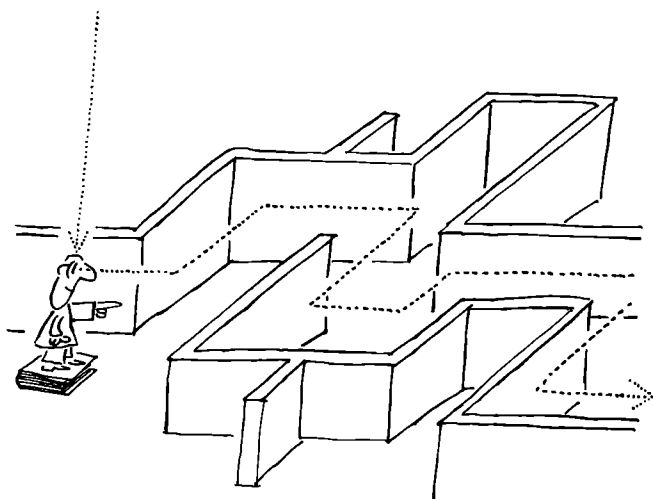
<sup>3</sup>Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair, and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing; <sup>4</sup>rather, let your adornment be the inner self with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in God's sight.



<sup>19</sup>So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

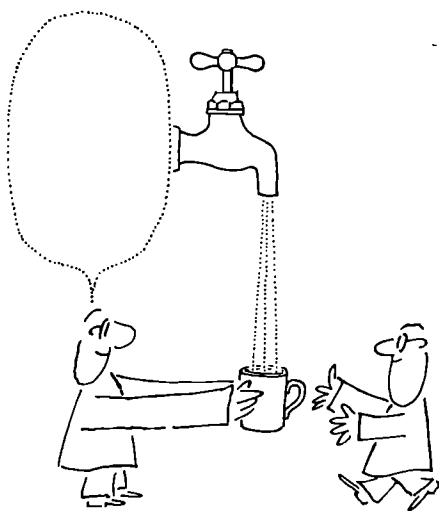


<sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.



**A word  
to your  
own people**

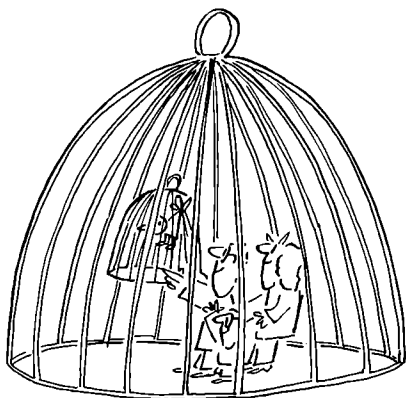
**2** But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive opinions. They will even deny the Master who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. <sup>2</sup>Even so, many will follow their licentious ways, and because of these teachers the way of truth will be maligned. <sup>3</sup>And in their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. Their condemnation, pronounced against them long ago, has not been idle, and their destruction is not asleep.



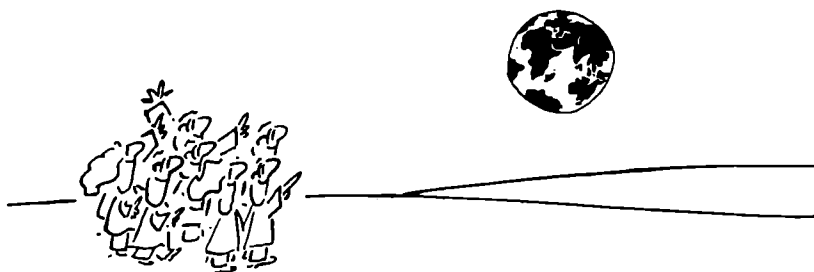


**Captives**

<sup>18</sup>For they speak bombastic nonsense, and with licentious desires of the flesh they entice people who have just escaped from those who live in error. <sup>19</sup>They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for people are slaves to whatever masters them. <sup>20</sup>For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overpowered, the last state has become worse for them than the first.



<sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we  
wait for new heavens and a new earth,  
where righteousness is at home.



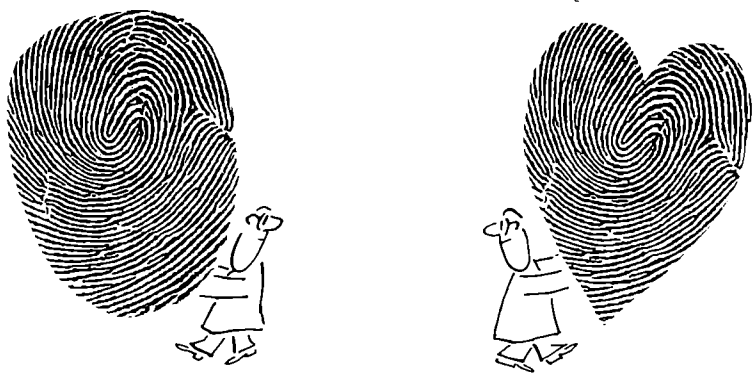
**Deeds**

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

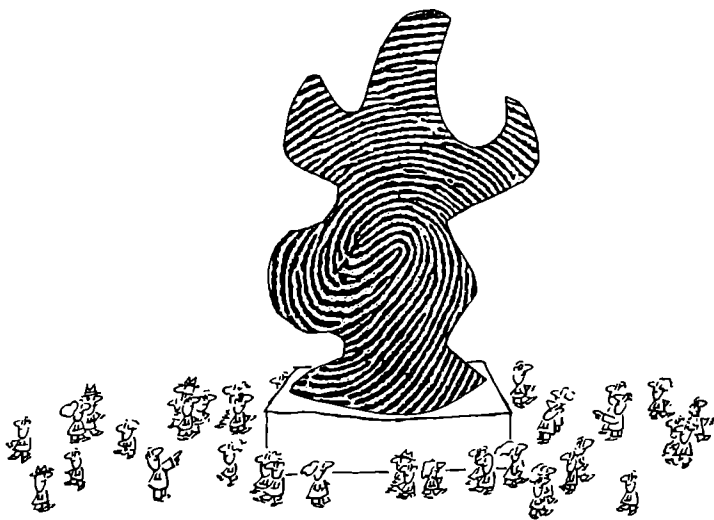


**Origin of love**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.



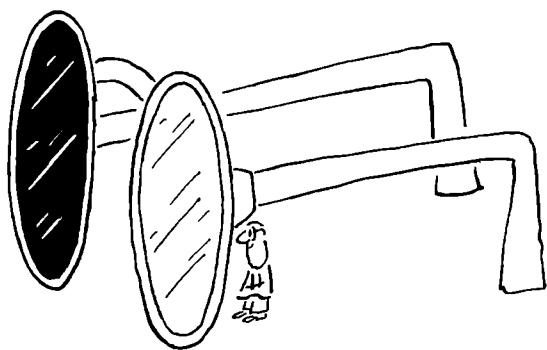
<sup>21</sup>Little children, keep yourselves from idols.



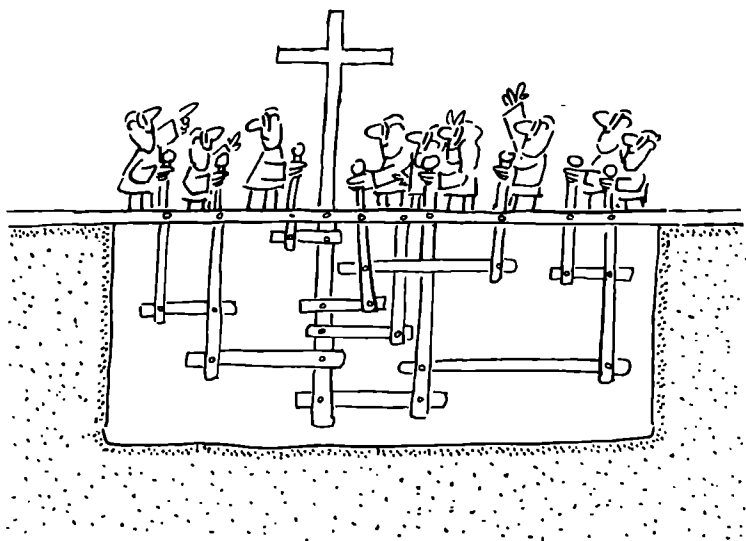
‘And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment just as you have heard it from the beginning —you must walk in it.



<sup>11</sup>Beloved, do not imitate what is evil but imitate what is good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.



<sup>17</sup>But you, beloved, must remember the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>18</sup>for they said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, indulging their own ungodly lusts." <sup>19</sup>It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing divisions. <sup>20</sup>But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; <sup>21</sup>keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.



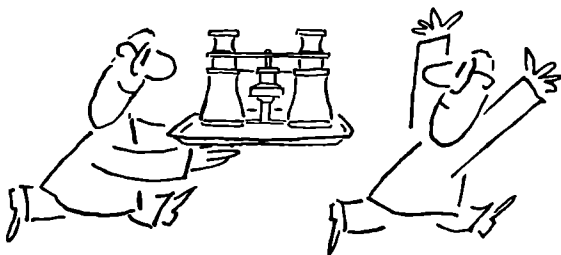


<sup>10</sup>I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. . . .

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.

<sup>19</sup>Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this."

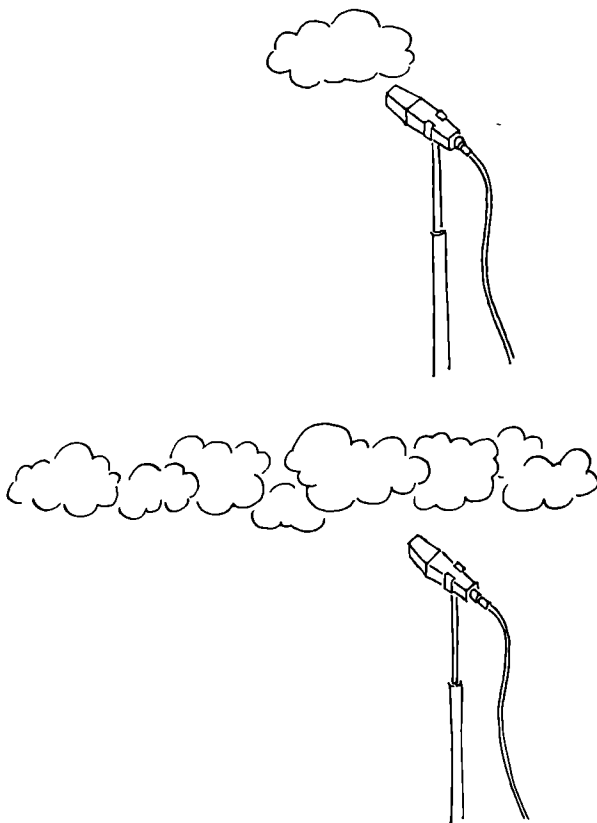


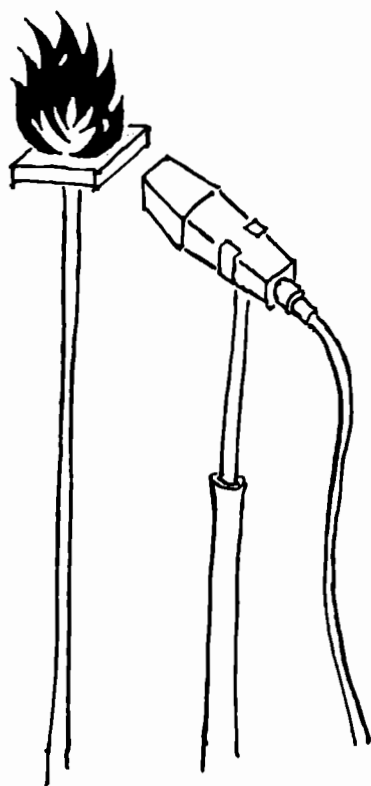
**Audible  
vision**

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes  
of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen. . . .

<sup>7</sup>Let anyone who has an ear listen to what  
the Spirit is saying to the churches. To  
everyone who conquers, I will give  
permission to eat from the tree of life that is  
in the paradise of God.

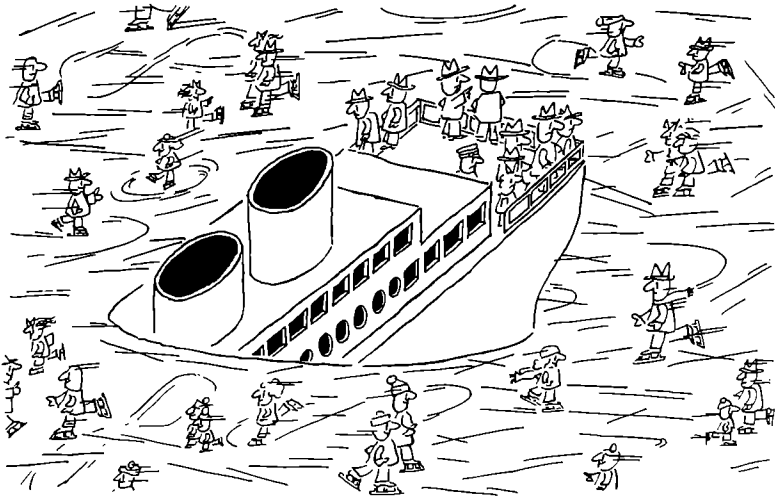




**Winter  
sleep**

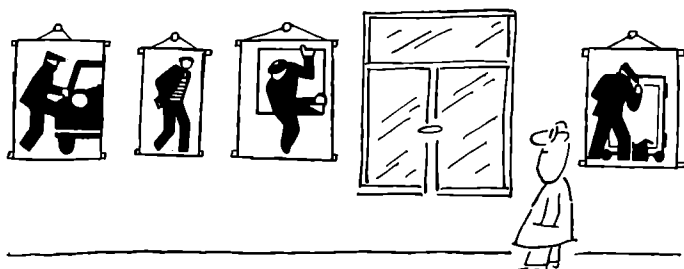
**3** "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars:

"I know your works; you have a name of being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup>Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God!"



**Day and  
night**

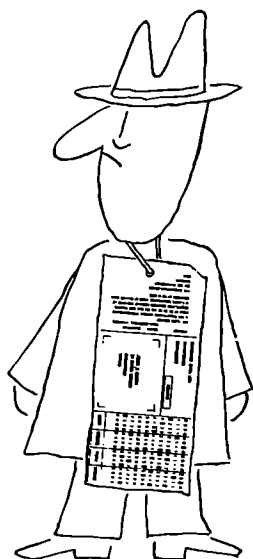
<sup>3</sup>Remember then what you received and heard; obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.



**The power  
of evil**

**13** And I saw a beast rising out of the sea; and on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads were blasphemous names. . . .

<sup>5</sup>The beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup>It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup>Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. It was given authority over every tribe and people and language and nation, <sup>8</sup>and all the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slaughtered.

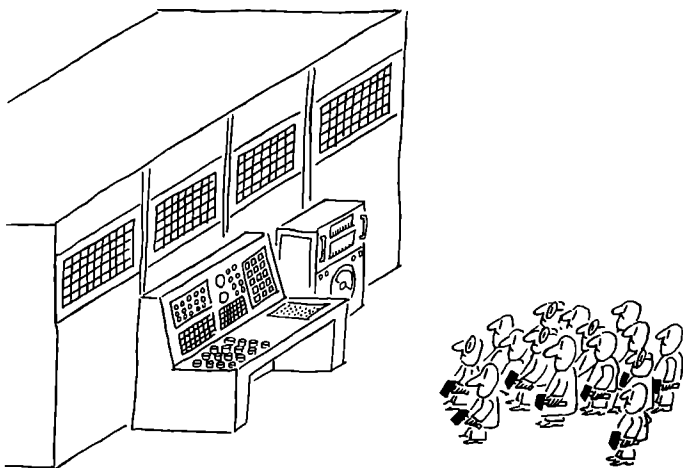


**Worship of  
the model**

<sup>8</sup>Then another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

<sup>9</sup>Then another angel, a third, followed them, crying with a loud voice, "Those who worship the beast and its image, and receive a mark on their foreheads or on their hands, <sup>10</sup>they will also drink the wine of God's wrath, poured unmixed into the cup of his anger, and they will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup>And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image and for anyone who receives the mark of its name."

<sup>12</sup>Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith of Jesus.



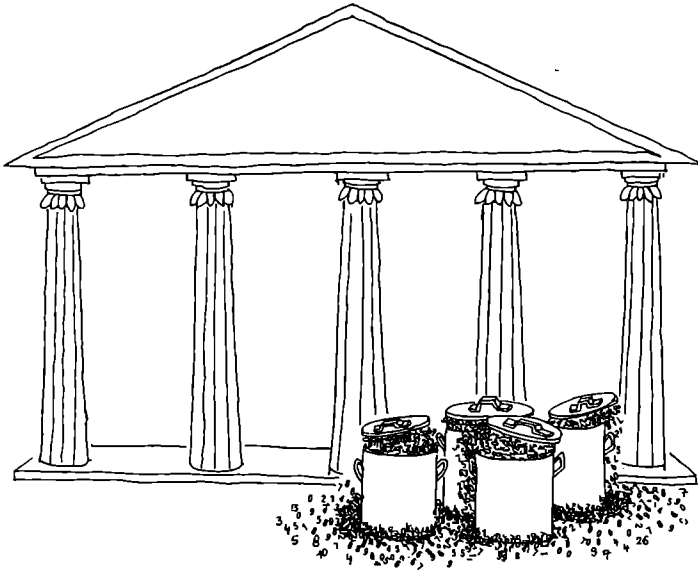
**Justice**

<sup>9</sup>And the kings of the earth, who committed fornication and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning; <sup>10</sup>they will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say,

“Alas, alas, the great city,  
Babylon, the mighty city!

For in one hour your judgment has come.”

<sup>11</sup>And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore.

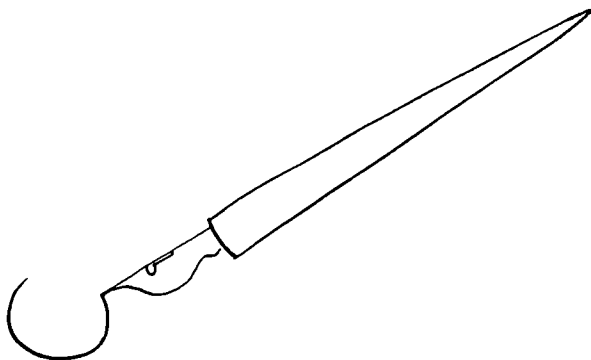




***New heavens  
and a  
new earth***

**21** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. . . .

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."



***Having been warned***

<sup>18</sup>I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book; <sup>19</sup>if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

<sup>20</sup>The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

<sup>21</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

